

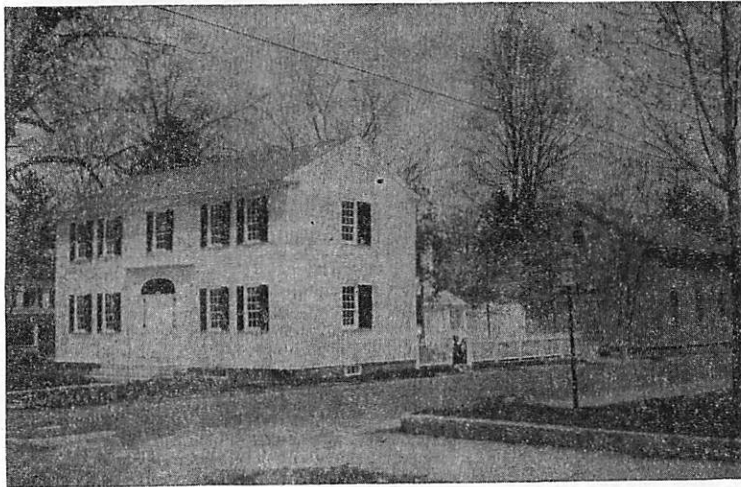
# The Bethel Oxford County Citizen

ILLUSTRATED EDITION PUBLISHED IN OBSERVANCE OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF BETHEL,  
AND TO COMMEMORATE THE DEDICATION OF THE MOSES MASON HOUSE MUSEUM,  
in cooperation with the Bethel Historical Society.

Special Edition

Bethel, Maine, Wednesday, July 10, 1974

Price—\$1.00 per copy



THE MOSES MASON HOUSE

## RESTORATION OF MASON HOUSE IS IMAGINATIVE TRIBUTE TO MR. BINGHAM

Over the years Bethel citizens have benefitted from the generosity of the late William Bingham II, both through his gifts to Gould Academy and from his many private benefactions. Mr. Bingham loved this section of the country and the restoration of the Moses Mason House in his memory was an imaginative tribute on the part of the Trustees of the William Bingham II Trust for Charity.

In addition, the restoration of the House and its subsequent transfer as an unconditional gift to the Bethel Historical Society represents for the citizens of this area an imaginative conception by the Bingham Trustees. The Moses Mason House is not to be operated by the William Bingham II Trust for Charity for the benefit of the Bethel area; local citizens themselves will develop resources to preserve memorials to early settlers and to make graphic to young people their forebears' way of life. In this way the generosity of the Bingham Trustees will actively foster local pride.

Particular credit for the Moses Mason House should be given to one of the Bingham Trustees, Dr. Sidney Davidson. Acting with the cooperation of other Trustees, Dr. Davidson has from the beginning been the moving spirit. The basic concepts were his; he also has provided the care, patience and skill necessary for the transformation of the idea into the reality of a completed building in active use.

Dr. Davidson came to know Bethel as a Trustee of Gould Academy. He became associated with the Academy in 1938 and was elected President of the Board of Trustees in 1947. In 1971 he was elected Trustee Emeritus. His service to Gould was outstanding, and Davidson Hall, a splendid new dormitory, was dedicated in his honor in 1971.

Moreover, in addition to his service as a Gould Trustee, Dr. Davidson has become increasingly identified with the town of Bethel itself. He has been both a contributor to and a proud witness of Bethel's progress. Over the years he has become much more to local residents than a friendly summer visitor. Dr. Davidson is a man of outstanding intellect and perception; he has a fine sense of humor, common sense, energy, sympathy and interest in others. Bethel has found him a good friend, and in turn he has won many friends drawn from a wide area of local interests.

The restoration which Dr. Davidson visualized was a carefully planned and highly

## PROGRAM

Bethel Historical Society  
Dedication of the Moses Mason House  
Wednesday, July 10, 1974

4:30 p. m.

Bethel, Maine

\*\*\*

Musical Prelude

Invocation Rev. Thomas Caton  
West Parish Congregational Church

Introductions and Welcome  
Margaret Joy Tibbetts, President  
Bethel Historical Society

Remarks Trustees of the William Bingham II  
Trust for Charity

Musical Selection

Principal Address Robert Damm, Director  
Maine State Museum

Benediction

Musical Selection

successful operation which took over two years to complete. It involved consultation with a number of experts and the services of a diverse group of skilled workmen and technicians, all too numerous to cite individually, but a few deserve mention: Walker O. Cain Architects and Associates of New York, responsible for planning and completing the project; John T. Grover, Bethel, general supervisor; Walter Grover, Mason, and Richmond Davis, Hanover, general contract work; R. C. Ford, Auburn, plumbing and heating; Lyons Electric Co. Inc., Auburn, wiring; Lewis Sargent, Bethel, exterior and interior painting; George D. Di Matteo Construction Company, South Portland, masonry and roofing; Sunday River Tree Service, Bethel, landscaping; Brown's Welding Shop, Bethel, excavating; Windham Millwork, Inc., North Windham, architectural woodwork; Dr. Richard Howland, Smithsonian Institution, professional adviser; Mr. George Watson, Sturbridge, professional adviser; Mr. Robert Damm, Maine State Museum, professional adviser. These are but a few of the large number of individuals and firms who contributed immeasurably to the success of the undertaking.

What has emerged is an eight room museum section ranging from parlor to buttery which is being furnished by means of dona-

Continued on Page Twenty-Four

## EVA M. BEAN — A TRIBUTE

Eva Bean was one of the founders of the Bethel Historical Society. Her work and her personality have been lasting inspirations to the Society's members, many of whom were also her friends. She was dedicated to the collection and preservation of information about life in this area in the past, and it was as a result of her prodding that other members of the Society first began to work systematically on aspects of Bethel's early history.

Eva brought enthusiasm and skill to her researches. She had the ability to recognize interesting subjects which merited deeper study. Her own book, "East Bethel Road," was a model of local history. By careful study of each home site and its successive occupants up and down the Middle Intervale-East Bethel-Bloody Street and South Bethel roads she reconstructed the entire history of the area: the rise and flourishing of some families, the gradual disappearance or drifting away of others; the contribution in humor and anecdote of well known local characters; the changing economy—and geography—of the area as the hillside farms were deserted and old pastures were grown up to woods; the proud solitude of the East Bethel churches; and above all, the day to day life of the people who lived there from the beginning of settlement in the late 1700's through to the twentieth century. She carefully collected human interest details and she painstakingly sorted the branches of the various families. She always bore in mind the natural appearance of the area, the intervals, the river, the mountains and the woods. Illuminating her work were her pride and affection for East Bethel, where she had been born and raised. The result is that her book is now a collector's item.

In addition the Society has been the beneficiary of Eva's work upon other sections and townships near here. She left about twenty



notebooks and folios in various stages of completion which provide valuable references and beginnings, including in some cases fine old photographs. She was both zealous and tenacious in pursuing her subjects, spending hours in the files of the county newspapers or in the Oxford County Courthouse. Also, she visited for hours on end the many old, often deserted, cemeteries of this area looking for names and dates. For Eva knew that history is the story of people and often the clue lies in the cemetery—who married whom, when did this local celebrity die, to which branch of the family did this individual belong. Small

Continued on Page Twenty-Four

## MEMORIES OF THE "THIRTIES"

Dear Editor:

Thinking about this special edition of "The Citizen" has inevitably reminded me of the last special edition, the "Indian Raid" "Citizen" of August 3, 1931. My Mother was responsible for about ninety per cent of the text of that edition, and I well remember accompanying her as she visited the various business and professional men assembling the material for her articles. Some of the local men were excellent copy, others took a great deal of imagination on her part to find anything much to write about. We have always been very proud of her work and consider the 1931 paper an achievement of lasting usefulness.

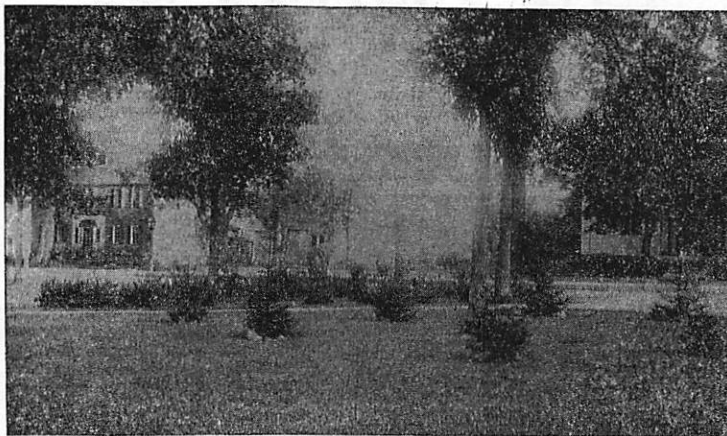
The other person mainly responsible for the edition was, of course, your father, Carl Brown. He was a fine editor and over many years all of us knew and appreciated his kindness, patience and integrity. He was a man of highest principle and standards. His devotion to Bethel, his hard work and his concept of an editor's role were outstanding and led to the bolstering of local pride and morale as well as the preservation of a lasting record of value.

When Mother was working on the 1931 paper she commented that the best sources for the earlier celebration of 1881 were those who had been children during the earlier period (such as Mrs. Van), not those who had been adults. For children details of a big celebration registered indelibly whereas for adults one celebration tended to merge with other important events. I am sure that is true. Certainly I remember the 1931 Indian Raid in sharp detail. Never will I forget the pageant and what fun it was to see the Indians emerge from the lower campus to burn the pioneer cabin. I also remember with particular pleasure Miss Grace Carter and Dale Thurston as the most dramatically satisfying of the pioneers.

It is also fun to think a bit of Bethel as it was in the thirties when we were growing up. For children, of course, our lives centered in the schools, both the old Grammar School and Gould Academy. The old Grammar School was not very elegant but there were some good teachers there over the years; all of us could name them still. As for Gould Academy, we started in the old building and graduated from the new; we did not know it but the Academy was on the brink of significant expansion which would in time lead to its dominating the lower end of Church Street and the creation of a campus of great beauty. Most of us, however, thought of Gould Academy in terms of our friends and of Mr. Hanscom. His personality was a lasting influence although we had our athletic heroes, and our triumphs. After graduation you forgot who won, but you remember who played.

As for the town, there were of course many more trees along the streets then. The passing of the elms has made a sad difference, both for us and for the birds. I remember an air of tranquility and calm. In the drug store was our beloved Mr. Bosserman, soft spoken and trusted, and Alton Carroll, everyone's friend. Mr. Park and Judge Herrick set an awesomely high standard in the offices behind the banks; both Banks were then where the Savings Bank now is in the Cole Block. The kindly and friendly Mr. Hastings—"Old Henry"—to distinguish him for our friend "Young Henry"—would greet us as we tore up Church Street coming home from school. There were three Doctors, all busy, including my Father. Broad Street looked most as it does now although then of course the Gehring Estate had marvelous gardens and was a place of beauty. Main Street has perhaps changed most with the building of the IGA and the Casco Bank buildings transforming the central sections. And traffic is of course much heavier now. In the '30's only on Friday and Saturday, movie nights at Odeon Hall, was there much Maine Street night activity and that would end by 11 o'clock. On weekdays in the thirties all students were off the streets and in their homes by 7 o'clock unless there was a basketball game or play. Mr. Hanscom took the study hour system seriously. In some respect the thirties were desperately hard economically for Bethel as for the rest of the nation; but in a small town there are ways of getting along with pride and if Bethel's economy bent, it did not break.

On reflection I think we are fortunate so much of the essence of our town remains un-



The Durell Home as it appeared Early in the Century.

## A TIME REMEMBERED

Dear Editor,

During the year 1912 I had the happy experience of living for six weeks with the Durell family who owned and occupied the house at the corner of Broad and Mason Streets, now called the Moses Mason House. This was the beginning of a warm friendship which lasted more than 50 years.

The house, first to be built in Bethel with clapboard covering, was shabby and weathered and the barn had a slight tilt. Ada Twitchell Durell (Mrs. Tristram Durell) had inherited the house from her mother, a niece of Mrs. Moses Mason.

Everything about the house was interesting and delightful. The front door opened into a narrow hall with stairs leading directly to a landing and then turning to the second floor. The plastered walls were covered with hand painted murals of lovely green trees and houses and leaves and vines.

Wide pine boards made the floors and they were covered with hand made rugs. There were many doors with rattling latches.

On the Mason Street side a porch on the ell was fitted with windows to make a glass corridor extending into the small courtyard. Potted plants on shelves and tables and hanging baskets made this a bower of fragrance. M-m-mmm, the delicious smell of lemon and rose geraniums and fuchias and other crowded blooming pots.

The roomy kitchen had closets a-plenty and an open door revealed huge tureens and lovely pitchers on the top shelves. These were called Uncle Moses' ironstone. Iron and brass cooking kettles were under the sink. Some of these had been in the family for years.

The parlor and dining room were lined with shelves and books. Books were everywhere. Open a book and pressed ferns or wild flowers were between many pages.

Many primitive oil paintings and framed samplers were on the walls. The samplers had been made by Aunt Cyrene and Aunt Salome when they were eight and ten years old.

Mrs. Durell was an artist, self taught and with a light brush. Her studio was upstairs in the shed with a northern skylight. The only entrance was a trap door at the end of a ladder. This she would nimbly climb and pull it up behind her. Cousin Anna, who lived on Church Street and who was well known for her frequent and long visits, was often stop-

changed. There are new trees growing to replace the elms and already they are well along. We have new citizens whom we like and respect. We are proud of our young people and their accomplishments and our values remain much the same. If you look at the 1931 edition you will note that on Main Street we have two outstandingly successful examples of businesses in the same family, the popular Brooks Brothers and "The Citizen". We are particularly lucky that you and your brothers are continuing your Father's fine traditions. I hope that some years from now with another special edition—perhaps in 1996 when Bethel will have been incorporated 200 years — we will still have our "Citizen" edited by a descendant of Carl Brown.

Sincerely,

Margaret Joy Tibbetts

ped in frustration beneath the blank and silent hole in the ceiling.

Ada Twitchell Durell was a person of high attainment. She was president of the Colombian Club, a group of women organized by Mrs. Gehring to study and discuss great books. She was a botanist with a wide knowledge of local ferns. On the north side of the house (ferns should always go on the north side) she had established a fern garden of 17 varieties of local wild fern. She knew them all from the Giant Royal to the lowest polypodi. A patch of giant ostrich ferns grew apart. When they first appear they are often eaten as the tasty and welcome fiddlehead.

The opinions and knowledge of Dr. Gehring, a dedicated botanist, were shared with the Durells. All were early conservationists and preached against wholesale and prodigal picking of wild flowers. On our woods walks never more than one or two specimens of trillium, lady's slipper or trailing arbutus were taken although at that time every woods path and open glade was bordered by a galaxy of wild blossoms.

Dan Durell shared his mother's interests. He was a genius with tools and their uses. A few years later during World War I he was employed at the Portsmouth Navy Yard in charge of a department for the manufacture of precision tools.

"Tris", as young and old fondly called Mr. Durell was a wood carver. His shop was in the barn and it was a never-to-be-forgotten place. An old school house stove was in the center. Work benches were on all sides. Lathes and drills and vises were at hand, along with piles of pine and cedar boards for easy whittling. A few chairs and blocks were for visitors and a sprinkling of shavings and sawdust over all.

On the left board of a door frame was a priceless array of keys, each with its own hook and pencil identification written beside it. At the very top was a huge jointed key marked "M. Mason, barn". It folded like a jack knife. There were dozens of copper and brass keys, some fat and some thin, some long, some short. There were iron keys for large intricate locks, slim steel keys and at the bottom were Dan's modern keys for Yale locks.

In this sunny place Tris carved butter molds and bread boards, made chairs and shelves and picture frames and mended furniture. Each Saturday a group of ten year olds came romping in for a lesson. They learned to hammer and saw and to create toys and gifts. They made bird houses and dolls' furniture and simple and essential skills amid laughter and fun in the sunny shop. All loved their teacher.

When Daniel married Ada Everett in 1915 among their wedding gifts one was unusual. Their neighbor, Mrs. W. J. Upson hired Milard Clough, master painter, to give the old house a coat of gleaming white.

Whatever fame and honor the future may hold for the old house, nothing will surpass the tenderness of the family ties, the joy and warmth of daily living that filled these pleasant rooms for more than the fifty years that it was home for these fine citizens, Mr. and Mrs. Tristram Durell and their son, Daniel.

Sincerely,

Pearl Ashby Tibbetts



# NEWSPAPERS IN BETHEL

In December of 1858, the "Bethel Courier" was established by Cady and Smith. In the second issue Dr. N. T. True began a series of historical editorials on early doings in Bethel. The publication was short lived as it ceased publication in July of 1861.

In 1895 Aked Ellingwood of Milan, N. H., established the "Bethel News," with printing facilities at the rear of the Cole Block. A year later, E. C. Bowler of Palermo, who was serving as Bethel superintendent of schools, acquired half interest in the paper. In 1897, Mr. Bowler took over full control of the publication.

In 1906, Bowler opened an office in Rumford and started the "Rumford Citizen". This paper was operated separately from the "News", but both papers were printed in the Bethel plant. Two years later the two were consolidated as the "Oxford County Citizen."

Fred Merrill acquired the paper in 1913, when Bowler moved on, later to become business manager of Portland's "Daily Eastern Argus". Mr. Merrill had been associated with Ellery C. Park and Judge A. E. Herrick in the practice of law and the management of the Bethel Savings Bank and Bethel National Bank.

Mr. Merrill sold the firm to David Forbes of Gorham, N. H., in 1920, and returned to a position as assistant cashier in the Bethel National Bank, and was local manager of the Casco Bank and Trust Co., in the late '40's.

In 1927, Carl L. Brown acquired the newspaper. He had been employed with the firm since 1911. From that time until his death in April of 1963, Mr. Brown served as editor of the "Citizen". The firm was incorporated in 1961 as Citizen Printers Incorporated.

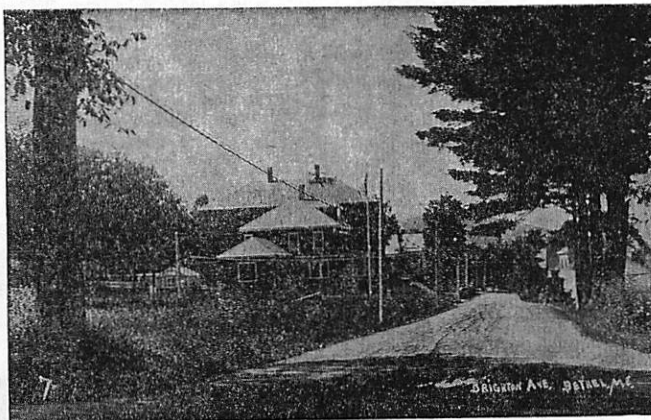
Since 1963 his son, John, has acted as editor of the paper. Also actively associated with the firm are Edwin and Donald Brown, and Edwin's wife, Musa.

Over the years, there have been four "special editions" of the local paper, in 1896, 1904, 1931 and now in 1974. The 1896 issue was in honor of the town's Centennial; 1931, Indian Raid Sesquicentennial; 1974, Dedication of the Moses Mason House; no reason can be found for the issue in 1904.

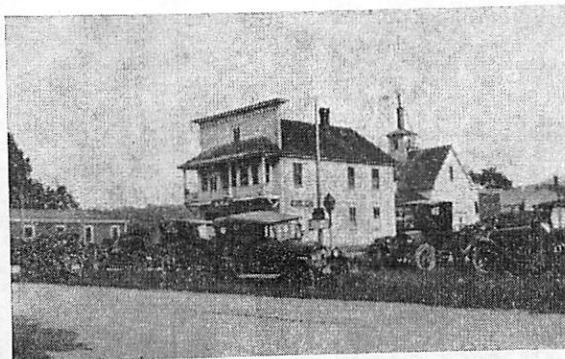
Since the establishment of the "Bethel News" in 1895 and its successor, the "Citizen", only two issues have been missed. This was the result of a fire in the winter of 1923, when extensive water damage curtailed publication for two weeks. Conditions resulting from the flood of 1936 resulted in a publication delay of a few days, and over the years equipment failures and mechanical difficulties have caused some issues to be late. But a 79 year record of only two issues missed, and none missed since 1927 is a source of pride to the family Brown. It may not be a record but it's a (expletive deleted) good average.

## THE BETHEL OXFORD COUNTY CITIZEN

Entered as second class matter, May 7, 1908, at the post office in Bethel, Maine 04217. Printed and published each Thursday by Citizen Printers Inc. Subscription rate, regular edition, \$4.25 a year in advance.



Brighton Avenue (now Elm Street) probably in the 1920's.



## DR. MOSES MASON

- \* Did not come to Bethel until he was ten years old.
- \* Was born the year Washington was inaugurated President of the United States.
- \* Built the fourth house on the rim of the Common.
- \* Married one of the three Straw sisters who came to Bethel from Newfield.
- \* Owned the first sofa in town.
- \* Had the first house built on a foundation which onlookers feared would topple over at the time of its construction.
- \* Lived in the first painted house and the first to have blinds.
- \* Was the first Postmaster of Bethel, serving in that capacity from 1815-1833.
- \* Owned the second piano in town.
- \* Studied medicine under the supervision of his brother-in-law Dr. James Ayer.
- \* Served as a Justice of the Peace from 1821 until his death in 1866.
- \* Was a member of the House of Representatives in Washington for two terms (1833-1837).
- \* Liked practical jokes.
- \* Became a County Commissioner in 1831, serving until 1834.
- \* Was a Selectman of Bethel in 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1839, 1841, 1844, and 1846.
- \* Held extensive holdings in Fryeburg Academy Bachelors and Davis Grants which in 1843 became the town of Mason in his honor.
- \* Built a chair of moose horns and birds-eye maple.
- \* Is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.
- \* Served as a Trustee of the Insane Hospital in 1844.
- \* Constructed a pictorial bookcase.
- \* Earned \$400.00 in his eighteen years as postmaster of Bethel.
- \* Became a friend of the famed Indian Metaluck.
- \* Was an ardent Democrat.
- \* Was born in Dublin, New Hampshire.
- \* Traded 2½ acres of land for a clock.
- \* With Mrs. Mason celebrated fifty years of marriage on June 15, 1863.
- \* Became President of the Gould Academy Board of Trustees in 1853.
- \* Attended the Baptist Church.
- \* Officiated at forty-three weddings as a Justice of the Peace—always returning the fees to the bride.
- \* Was "a man of correct judgement, good sense, and a peacemaker among his neighbors."

IN THE EARLY 1920's at West Bethel, these cars were parked during one of the fairs sponsored by Pleasant Valley Grange. In the center is H. N. Head's Store and the garage of Clarence Bennett is on the left.

## DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

### Bethel United Methodist Church

Main Street  
Rev. James Nason  
Morning Worship, Sunday, 10:30 a. m.

### West Parish Congregational Church

Church Street  
Rev. Thomas L. Caton  
Morning Worship, Sunday, 9:00 a. m.

### Bethel Church of the Nazarene

Church Street  
Morning Worship, Sunday, 11:00 a. m.

### Our Lady of the Snows, Catholic

Route 26  
Rev. Sylvio Levesque, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Henchal  
and Rev. Michael Doucette  
Mass, Sunday, 9:00 a. m.  
Saturday evening, 7:00 p. m. (summer only).

### Episcopal Chapel of Christ the King

Casco Bank Building, Main St.  
Worship service, Sunday, 7:00 p. m.

### Bethel Gospel Center

Odd Fellows Hall, Main St.  
Pastor, Edward Gammon  
Morning Worship, Sunday, 10:00 a. m.

### West Bethel Church

Beatrice Burris, Pastor  
Worship Service, Sunday, 11:00 a. m.

## Did You Know:

- That Sudbury Inn was called Maple Inn?
- That Harry Lyon was the first man to go up in an airplane from Bethel?
- That the Rialto, a roller rink, stood where Sunri and Rolfe's Apparel are now?
- That Don Brooks' house used to be on the corner where the Window Box now stands?
- That in 1926 the huge brick smokestack of the J. P. Skillings mill in Skillington toppled over?
- That in 1838 it cost \$3.50 to have the building whitewashed and a chimney built at Gould?
- That the first death in Bethel occurred on Grover Hill, when James Mills was struck by a falling tree?
- That Dr. S. S. Greenleaf was the veterinarian to the sled dogs which accompanied Admiral Byrd's expedition?
- That the first settlers in Bethel, Nathaniel Segar and Jonathan Bartlett brought kettles to make maple syrup?
- That the flying field at West Bethel was marked with WB in white sand, and "Bethel" was written on Crockett's Garage roof, in 1930?
- That the original Methodist Church in East Bethel was twice struck by lightning, once during a meeting, when a Mrs. McGill was killed and several others prostrated?
- That in the 1950's the town of Bethel first appropriated money for the control of Dutch Elm Disease, beginning a program of removal of diseased trees and eventual replacement with a variety of maples?
- That Bethel is bounded on the East by Milton and Rumford, the west by Gilead and Mason, the north by the Androscoggin and Newry and Hanover, and the south by Albany, Greenwood, and Woodstock?

## BETHEL SAVINGS BANK

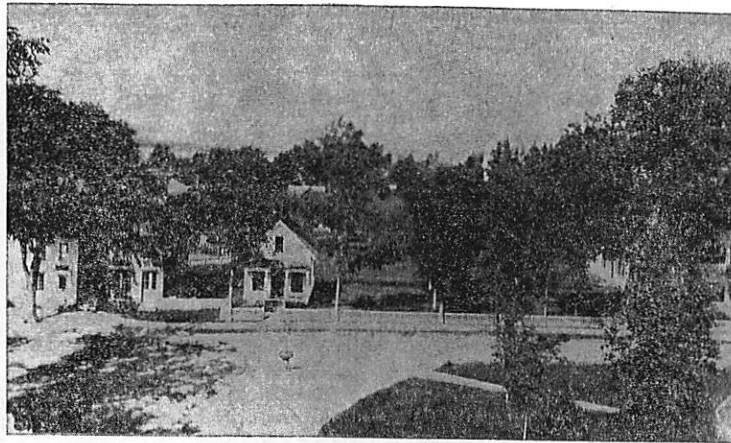
Early in the 19th century, the very first savings bank was located in Scotland, made available by a minister to the people of his parish to build financial security from saving regularly. The idea spread rapidly, first in Massachusetts, then in Pennsylvania and several other states, and to foreign countries.

The depositor's passbook of the 19th century often contained a preface reading:—"The design of this institution is to afford to those who are desirous of saving their money—, the means of employing it to advantage, without a risk of losing it — by lending it to individuals who either fail, or defraud them. It is intended to encourage the industrious and prudent, and to induce such who have not hitherto been such, to lessen their unnecessary expenses, and to save and lay by something for a period of life when they will be less able to earn a support".

It was with that background the first consumer savings institutions were introduced to Maine and that the Bethel Savings Bank was incorporated and chartered February 5, 1872. In those days a career in banking had its requirements and the following duties and benefits of employees were not uncommon among savings institutions:—

1. Office employees will daily sweep the floors, dust the furniture, shelves and counters.
2. Each day fill the lamps, clean the chimneys, trim the wicks and wash windows once a week.
3. Each clerk will bring in a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's business.
4. Make your pens carefully. Whittle the nibs to suit your taste.
5. This office will open at 7:00 a. m. and close at 8:00 p. m. daily except on the Sabbath, on which day it will be closed.
6. Every employee should lay aside from his pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden upon the charity of his betters.
7. Men employees will be given an evening off each week for courting purposes, or two evenings if they go regularly to church.
8. Any employee who smokes Spanish cigars, uses liquor in any form, gets shaved at a barber shop, or frequents pool or public halls will give us good reason to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty.
9. The employee who has performed his labor faithfully and without fault for a period of five years in our service and who has been thrifty, and is looked upon by his fellowmen as a law abiding citizen, will be given an increase of 10 cents per day in his pay, provided a just return in profits from the business permits.

The Bethel Savings Bank held its first Corporators and Trustees meeting on February 28, 1872, with Oliver Mason, President, presiding. Business started in Mr. Mason's office with the rental of a small safe for \$25.00 a year. In 1890 the bank moved its location from



Original Library Building is shown center left.

the building that is now the Bethel Library to the Cole Block which was acquired in settlement of a mortgage for \$6,000. Beginning in 1905 and until 1946, the Bethel National Bank shared "banking rooms, vault and an adding machine" with the Bethel Savings Bank.

If figures are a measure of accomplishment, and there is no denying they are, then a growth from \$10,046. in deposits to over \$9 1/4 million today, with assets of over \$10.3 million and annual distribution of \$462,000 in dividends to depositors in fiscal 1974, is indeed testimony of performance. Thus an oak from an acorn grew over the past century to become a financial pillar for Bethel and the surrounding area.

The past is well known to all of us. What the future holds in store is speculation. However, as the fortitude, imagination, hard work and perseverance of ancestors have produced wonders beyond imagination in the past century, there is no question of further accomplishments that are now beyond comprehension in all endeavors including banking which will evolve with the passing of time.

To meet the challenge of the future, the Bethel Savings Bank enters its second century with a new, and modern building on Main Street scheduled for completion in the next few weeks. Later in the summer or in early fall, it is anticipated a branch of the Bank will be opened in Harrison, Maine. These new facilities will provide more and better services for all present and future customers in a wider area of western Maine.

In 50 A. D. Epictetus, the Greek philosopher, wrote: "No great thing is created suddenly any more than a bunch of grapes or a fig. If you tell me you desire a fig, I answer you that there must be time. Let it first blossom, then bear fruit, then ripen."

The Bethel Savings Bank has blossomed, born fruit and ripened. It dedicates the future to continued growth and to the friendly, courteous and personal service deserving of the trust of its customers valued so highly.

## BETHEL LIBRARY

The Bethel Library Association was founded on April 14, 1879, preceded by several years of a home-circulating library. Concerned ladies sponsored a membership drive with a series of popular lectures, given by Dr. True, and others, and were successful enough to start a formal library association. The present building was acquired in 1937 when the trustees voted to build the one and a half story Cape Cod structure and set the original building back to form an ell to the new section. The old section had been Judge Enoch Foster's law library.

The library is governed by a self-perpetuating board of trustees. The officers for 1974 are: President, Frances Harding; Vice-President, Raymond Moran; Secretary, Margaret Tibbetts, and Treasurer, Anne Benson.

The past several years have seen a number of innovations at the library. A story-hour for pre-school children is held year-round on Thursday mornings, and in the summer a program for older children is added. In 1974, the towns of Newry and Greenwood voted to consider the Bethel Library as their town library, thus augmenting the state funds available to the library. As of June 1, 1974, the hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 1:00-5:00, and Friday, 4:00-8:00.

The library is most efficiently staffed with Virginia Keniston as Head Librarian, and her assistants, Mary Angevine, Sue Wight, and Danna Nickerson.

At present the Library contains 9,597 volumes, and operates with a budget of \$1,050.65. Memorial acquisitions are housed in a special area, and exhibits by local artists are held throughout the year.

## Did You Know:

That the area of the town of Bethel is 52 1/4 square miles?

That Carmeno Onofrio owned the first airplane in Bethel?

That J. N. Swan and D. C. Conroy had the first radio in Bethel?

That in 1880 a railroad line from Bethel to Rumford was proposed?

That in 1824, the first barrel of flour was brought to Bethel by Capt. John Harris?

That the gypsies passing through town in the early 1900's drove cars with District of Columbia plates?

That the Lewiston Sun newspapers were dropped into Bethel by plane during the 1936 flood?

That Head's Store in West Bethel stands on the site of a post card factory which operated from 1900-1910?

That during the winter season the Bethel Inn provided a toboggan slide and a skating rink for the guests?

That the sign on the Bethel Toll Bridge read, "\$3.00 fine for riding or driving across this bridge faster than a walk"?

That during the war of 1812, a company of men from Bethel, and surrounding towns marched off to defend the Maine coast?

That Rev. Javan K. Mason, Bethel-born and Gould-educated, was chaplain to the State Prison at Thomaston, and an early and prominent prison reformer?



BUSY DAY ON MAIN STREET — CIRCA 1895



## CENTENNIALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Early celebrations held in the settlements in the Bethel area were related directly to the necessities of life. Barn and house raisings, and bees were community events which were used as an excuse to celebrate with special food and drink. Military training led to revelry; May training and Muster Days were gala occasions for the "boys". It is noted in the Bethel History that "there was probably more of evil grew out of them than good." When the militia was legislated out in the 1840's and as the temperance movement took hold in mid-century, such hoopla went into a decline.

As life in Bethel became easier, and community life more structured, celebrations became more elaborate. Events of importance in the town were made much of. On March 10, 1851, the Portland and S. Lawrence Railway reached Bethel, and the town celebrated. Robert A. Chapman, Bethel storekeeper, was master of ceremonies. One incident which has been recorded for modern enjoyment concerns the misfiring of the ceremonial cannon, which instead of an appropriate thunder, gave off only a rude "Pfoosh."

Lodges and societies were numerous in 19th century Bethel, and they sponsored public celebrations. The founding of the Free Masons in Bethel was marked on June 14, 1860, by a procession led by the South Paris Band to Dr. Mason's grove, behind his house, and then on to Pattee's Hall.

The last years of the 19th century found Bethel celebrating almost constantly. The many important events in the first years of Bethel's history were duly centennialized.

In 1874, the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers was marked by an occasion resulting from a tremendous organizational effort on the part of Dr. N. T. True and a committee of representatives from all sections of the town. The occasion, held on August 26, 1874, was blessed with perfect weather, bells were rung at sunrise, and carriages poured into the village. Private homes were festooned with evergreen and other decorations, and a large flag hung across Broad Street. At 10 a. m. the parade formed and circled through the village entering the Common through an arch inscribed "1774—Bethel—1874". Tables were arranged to accommodate 8,000 and families were seated in sections assigned to each school district. Dr. True delivered an address concerned with the history of the town, poems were recited, and many toasts and recognitions given. After the speeches a basket picnic was enjoyed. "Every kind of food, of ancient and modern times, made the tables fairly groan with their burden."

Portraits of aged citizens were suspended under the trees, and a display of historic articles included: An English sword picked up at the Battle of Stillwater, Levi Twitchell; An Indian stone pipe, Dr. True; Indian tomahawk; Compass used by Capt. Twitchell in surveying the town; Wedding shoes, 100 years old, Mrs. John Harris; A silver tankard, presented to Gen. Joseph Frye by his officers after an expedition to Nova Scotia in 1757, R. A. Frye; A complete set of china, 50 years old, Mrs. R. A. Frye; A chair, 115 years old, Samuel T. Stowell; The first sofa in town, which had belonged to Dr. Mason, Mrs. C. S. Twitchell; Autograph album with names of all members of Congress in Jackson Administration, Mrs. C. S. Twitchell; An Indian iron hatchet; An Indian stone pestle found in Bethel, Dr. True; Scales used for measuring logs by Capt. Twitchell, A. S. Twitchell; Moose horn chair made by Dr. Moses Mason (now, 1974, in the hall of Moses Mason House Museum), Mrs. C. S. Twitchell; Rooster from cupola of first church in Bethel, 60 years old, Chester L. Twitchell.

Theatrical events were soon to be added to Bethel celebrations. On August 3, 1881, the centennial anniversary of the last Indian raid was marked. Village bells assembled revelers on the Common at 9 a. m. A procession led by the town band and Major Gideon Hastings marched through the main streets to the Common where a blockhouse had been constructed similar to that built after the raid. The highlight of the day was a sham fight between a band of rangers and a party disguised as Indians. It is recorded, "Of course, the former were victorious, though when the contest was at an end, the latter did not in any sense resemble whipped Indians." The participants then repaired to Kimball Park where



Indian Raid Sesquicentennial Parade, Aug. 3, 1931—Old Bethel-Rumford-Andover Stagecoach.

literary exercises were held. Again, Dr. True served as historian, detailing the raid and the capture of Segar and Clark. A picnic followed. Among those present were the sons and grandsons of early settlers, including Eleazar Twitchell, son of Capt. Eleazar Twitchell, who had been captured in the raid and escaped, hiding in the woods which were later cleared to become Kimball Park.

On June 10, 1896, the 100th anniversary of the Act of Incorporation of the town of Bethel was celebrated. A special edition of the "Bethel News" was published with biographies of leading citizens and pictures of the town. Sunrise bells were accompanied by artillery salutes, and at 10 sharp, the parade began, complete with floats, horses, Indians, pretty girls, bands, fire companies and bicycles. A dinner was served at midday, or families could bring picnics. The afternoon was taken up with music, speeches, and a reading of the Act of Incorporation. A merry-go-round was in operation near the Odd Fellows Hall. An evening band concert on the Common was topped off by a fireworks spectacular. The new Odeon Hall was the official

reception center, and the site of a display of relics.

The return of World War I veterans was the occasion for a town celebration, "Our Boys Day", May 14, 1919. A parade was held with the World War I veterans who had arrived home, marching. There were some Civil War veterans who rode in the parade, including Gus Kimball of Hanover. D. Grover Brooks had a good sense of timing, as he arrived home from the war as the celebration was in progress. A baseball game on the field which was near the present Town Garage took place in the afternoon.

In 1931, the 150th anniversary of the Last Indian Raid was commemorated in a fashion that makes the day a highlight in the memories of many Bethel residents. The Mundt Post of the American Legion sponsored the affair, which was the occasion of the last Special Edition of the "Oxford County Citizen". It was believed to have drawn the largest crowd ever assembled in the history of Bethel. A parade of Legion groups, old timers, antique conveyances, oxen, floats, horses, bands,

Continued on Page Six



"OUR BOYS DAY" — MAY 14, 1919

## CENTENNIALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Continued from Page Five

marched in the morning. Beanhole beans were served at noon on the Common and at the Congregational Church—not to mention the 100 pounds of hot dogs and 15 gallons of fried clams sold. It was the pageant re-enacting the Indian Raid that makes this occasion so memorable. Mrs. Tibbetts recalls that the hill beyond the present Gould soccer field, served as a natural amphitheatre for spectators to witness the burning of the log cabin, and other activities of the cast of 35 Bethelites, serving as pioneers, Indians and Rangers. The R. & D. Air Circus was unable to appear due to cloudy skies, and the Bethel baseball team went down to defeat at the hands of Lovell, 11-4. However, these setbacks were unable to quell the high spirits of the day, and at 4 outdoor dancing took place on an especially constructed pavilion.

In recent times Bethel's community zest for celebration has been channeled into a new holiday, Mollycoddett Day, which evolved from the annual Bethel Bazaar. This event, held on a Saturday in mid-July was originally sponsored by the Health Council to raise funds for community relief projects. Recently the Bethel Lions Club has coordinated the day. Various community groups participate in a parade and sponsor booths on the Common where articles ranging from hot dogs, to handmade potholders, to used books are sold. Booth profits are shared with the Lions Club. In 1973, a woodsmen's field day was a major attraction and this is to be an annual event.

Several times in the past few years, the Historical Society has held a Homecoming Day in September. Features of this have been parades, antique shows, tours of historic sites, and in 1972, the stop-over in Bethel of a special passenger train on a foliage tour.

Another community event which occurs annually is the Nativity Scene—an outdoor pageant held just before Christmas on the Common. Local residents portray the Holy Family, shepherds, and Wise Men, and serve as musicians and stage crew. A good array of farm animals, is a feature of the pageant.

Memorial Day is observed with a parade and ceremony at the Soldiers' Monument, sponsored by the American Legion. The Telstar Band leads Scout groups, veterans, and many flag-waving children, for whom it is a great day.

In addition to these community-wide events, church groups and granges sponsor public suppers, bazaars, and fairs as money-raising ventures.



Odd Fellows Hall — 1974

## Note from the "Oxford Democrat", 1865:

There is a secret society in Bethel known as the Mutual Education Society, composed of intelligent and enterprising young men who hold weekly meetings for improvement. They held a Levee last Thursday evening where they exhibited their talents in various literary exercises. It has been in successful operation for several years. The young ladies formed a similar society at the same time but the impossibility of keeping a secret broke it up in a week or two. This society, aided by the ladies of Bethel, will hold another Levee next Thursday to raise funds for the re-casting of the cracked bell.

The Ladies of Bethel: celebrated alike in the present as in the past for their untiring devotion to every noble enterprise, their intelligence, their beauty, and their virtue.

(Bethel Centennial Report, 1874)



Dedication of Soldiers' Monument — Memorial Day, 1908.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS:  
PAST AND PRESENT

Bethel was once an active center for societies and fraternal orders but as radio and television became prevalent and the issues that gave rise to the special interest societies died out, many of the organizations became a thing of the past. In another age it was these clubs and orders which provided the basic structure for social activities in Bethel. Today we still find groups to join in Bethel. These are less structured than societies of the past, but do provide a chance for association with fellow townspeople with common interests.

One of the first organizations in Bethel which was both social and informational was the Farmers' Club, which began in 1853 and went on to become statewide in scope. This group held discussions on agriculture, sponsored a lending library, and was responsible for the introduction of new crops and methods to the area. Apples were the traditional refreshments served at meetings, apart from an occasional supper. The Farmers' Club sponsored an Agricultural Fair each September for many years.

The Bethelite of long ago could choose amongst a variety of temperance societies. The Washingtonian movement caught on in the area, particularly East Bethel in the 1840's and grew into the Sons of Temperance, which was organized at Middle Intervale in 1850. The various temperance societies had individual eras of influence, with the general spirit of temperance and prohibition prevailing in Bethel during the 19th century. Bethel also had an active W. C. T. U. in later years.

Chapters of national fraternal organizations flourished in Bethel from 1860 on. In 1896 one could choose from The Sons of Temperance, the Masons (est. 1859), the Odd Fellows (est. 1873) and the Rebekahs, Sudbury Lodge, Grand Army of the Republic (est. 1883), Sons of Union Veterans, Patrons of Husbandry, Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters, Order of Eastern Star, Independent Order of Good Templars, United Order of the Golden Cross, and the United Order of Pilgrim Fathers.

The Grange stands apart from the major scope of Bethel clubs and organizations, in that there are still active granges in outlying small communities, at West Bethel, Hunt's Corner, Newry, and East Bethel, and these groups have loyal and active members. However, with the demise of the family farm and agriculture as the major industry in

Maine, the once potent political and social power of the Grange is diminished.

Today, there are still clubs and organizations on the Bethel scene. The American Legion meets in its new hall on Vernon Street. The Masonic Order has its home in the former Christian Science Church on Chapman Street. There are several Bethel men who are active in Shrine activities on the state level. The Odd Fellows still retain their national association, and ownership of their hall on Main Street, but have not had an active chapter recently. The Order of Eastern Star, Purity Chapter, meets regularly.

Among the most active groups in Bethel of 1974, are the various civic organizations. The Lions Club meets at the Sudbury Inn, and sponsors the annual Mollycoddett Day, expending its funds on various good works, including eyeglasses for the needy. Recently a chapter of Rotary Club was formed. The Greater Bethel Chamber of Commerce undertakes the promotion of Bethel as a business and vacation center, and holds a banquet each year at which good-citizenship awards are made. The Bethel Health and Service Council has been in operation for a number of years, sponsoring projects in the area of medical services.

Women's groups include the Rumford Community Hospital Auxiliary, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Mothers' Clubs of Bethel and Newry, and "Mothers with Children", a parenthood discussion group.

Those interested in sports might wish to join the Ski Club, the Snow Twisters, a snowmobile group, or one of the golf or bowling leagues.

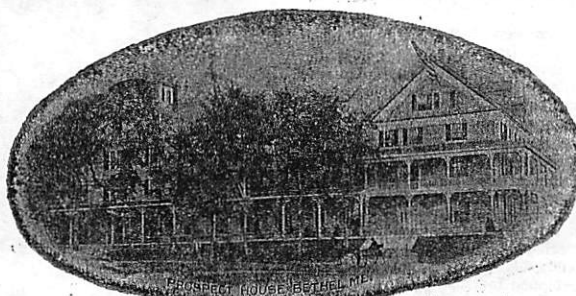
Both political parties are active in Bethel in 1974. Town Chairmen this year are Leeland Brown for the Republicans and Paul McGuire for the Democrats.

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies are represented in Bethel. There is an active summer baseball program and the Red Cross offers a series of swimming lessons for children.

Other opportunities for community participation are provided by the Bethel CB Monitors, the Ambulance and Rescue Service, the Bethel Historical Society, and the Volunteer Fire Department.

## Did you know that . . .

Arlene Greenleaf Brown was one of two Girl Scouts from Maine to serve as a guide at Storowton Village at the Eastern States Exposition in 1938?





## TELSTAR REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

After a 3-day orientation period to familiarize students with the new building and modular scheduling, Telstar Regional High School held classes for the first time on September 19, 1968. The 669 students, comprising grades 7-12, came from the S. A. D. #44 towns of Andover, Bethel, Greenwood, Newry, and Woodstock. Prior to this date, students from these towns had attended Andover High School, Gould Academy and Woodstock High School, but with the advent of the district facility, the two separate high schools were discontinued while Gould Academy became primarily a college-preparatory school for boarding students.

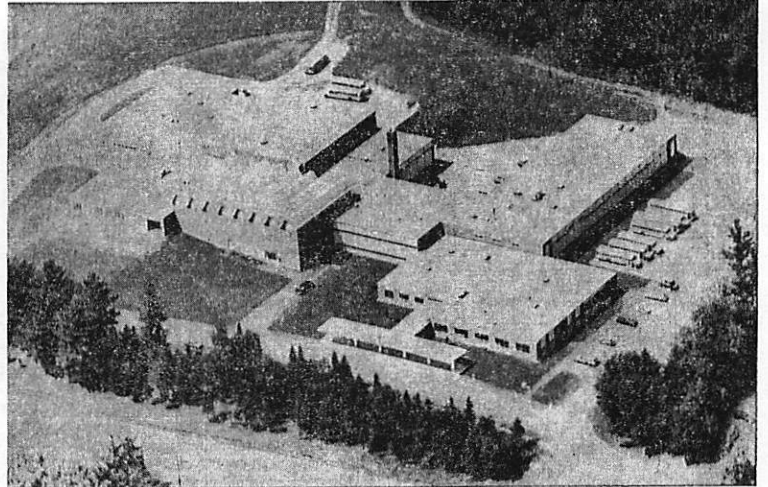
Besides the traditional high school subjects in business education, English, foreign languages, home economics, industrial arts, mathematics, science, and social science, Telstar offered also several courses in fine arts, graphic arts, music, and practical arts as well as a complete program in physical education, and provided, in addition, a guidance department, health suite with a resident nurse, who has since become a district nurse, and a large library. Before the end of the first school year, adult education courses were made available for area residents. At one time driver-training classes were offered, but usually these are held during summer vacation periods. Last year the Cooperative Education program was instituted under the direction of David Denison. This program, which is a cooperative effort on the part of Telstar and area employers, was formulated to enable participating students to explore careers of possible interest and to obtain on-the-job training in areas more varied than the school could normally provide.

Not all of Telstar's educational offerings are from books and classes. The first year a group of students visited Mallorca, an island in the Mediterranean off the coast of Spain. Until last year when the energy crisis curtailed several proposed trips, various groups of Telstar students visited England and France on two separate occasions and made visits to Italy, Spain and Washington, D. C., as well.

The band, chorus, and other music groups, under the direction of Glenn Bangs, have rendered memorable performances in special concerts, school assemblies and in parts of other school programs, such as commencement, etc. Telstar's music groups have earned an excellent reputation throughout the area, and in 1973 the stage band won first place in their division in state competition.

The Drama Club also has provided some admirable entertainment throughout the years. Under the succeeding direction of Katherine Davis, Helen Berry, and Susanne Bane, outstanding performances have been viewed by enthusiastic audiences. Some of the more ambitious and memorable offerings were: "The Wizard of Oz," "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Our Town," and "The Matchmaker."

In sports the new school has done very well. In skiing, Telstar forged to the front immediately, under the coaching of Timothy LaVallee, winning the Western Maine Class



Telstar Regional High School, grades seven through twelve, completed in 1968.

B slot the first year, becoming state champions the second year, and remaining at or near the top ever since. In other sports those first years were "building" periods, but in the last few years Telstar has produced Mountain Valley Conference and/or state championship teams in baseball, cross-country, football, and girls' skiing.

Honors other than those connected with sports have come to many Telstar individuals. A. James Fiske was named Maine Teacher of the Year in 1970, and in 1973 both Mr. Fiske and Timothy Kersey were named among the top five physics teachers in the nation. Among Telstar students winning honors were the following: Roger Buck, National Merit finalist; Sharon Dombkowski, winner of \$1,000 national N. H. S. scholarship given to only 200 students throughout the nation; Dana Melville, 1972 Maine representative at Summer Science Training Program at the University of Iowa; D. A. R. good citizenship candidates: Lynn Dickey, Amy Kennett, Donna Rosenberg, Merry Robertson, and Susan Bryant; Gayle Packard, treasurer of state National Honor Society; John Trinward, Maine representative to National Youth Science Camp in West Virginia; Cynthia Tift, recorder of District E, F. H. A.; Robin Dooen, chairman of District E, F. H. A.; Roberta Anderson, Maine state winner in the National 4-H Consumer Education Home Economics competition; Karen Sauret, Little Miss Maine winner in dance routine, represented Maine at international competition, and there have been numerous students named to Boys' State, Girls' State as well as many recipients of National Merit commendations.

During the school's first year (1968-69) the following individuals were serving on the staff of Telstar Regional High School: Superintendent: Ralph K. Ryder; Principal: C. Rich-

ard Vaughan; Assistant Principal: Richard McCann; Guidance Chairman: Frank Glazier; Counselors, Priscilla Hotte and David Denison; School Nurse: Suzanne Bartlett; Librarian: Madeleine Gibbs; English Chairman: Katherine Davis; English teachers: Gary Chretien, Elizabeth Tebbets, Thomas Marino, Pauline Applin, Helen Berry, Frances Gunther, and Peter Brown; Social Studies Chairman: Walter Ruark; Social Studies teachers: Francis Bean, William Morton, Lila Weaver, Allyn Emens, Norman Emery; Foreign Languages Chairman: Felix Otero-Otero; Foreign Language teachers: Bronislaw Noyi and Jeanne Thomine-Desmazures; Mathematics teachers: John Applin, Rupert Grover, Franklin Keegan, Theodore Davis and Deane Churchill; Science Chairman: Lawrence Arsenault; Science teachers: Paul Halle, Timothy Kersey, Nicholas Clements, Richard Roy and Brian Dolley; Business Chairman: Ralph Niemi; Business teachers: Margaret Trinward and Martha Keniston; Industrial Arts Chairman: Floyd Keniston; Industrial Arts teachers: John Carver and David Tripp; Home Economics Chairman: Thelma Dombkowski; Home Economics teacher: Venessa Arsenault; Fine Arts: William Koen; Music: Glenn Bangs; Special Education: Lillian Conant; Physical Education Chairman: Timothy LaVallee; Physical Education teachers: Sally Hannon and Daniel Hannon.

During the ensuing 6 years personnel changes have occurred. The superintendent's position went from Ralph K. Ryder to Robert J. Gerardi to Basil E. Kinney. The principalship was handed from C. Richard Vaughan to Keith Cunningham to Brian Flynn. The assistant principal's position was held first by Richard McCann, next to Brian Flynn, then by Dr. William Yeo, and now by Howard Walen. Department chairmen have changed also. Guidance passed from Frank Glazier to Priscilla Hotte to Samuel Elliott. The English chairman was first Katherine Davis, then Mollie Bryant, and now Frances Gunther. Richard McCann succeeded Walter Ruark as social studies chairman. Theodore Davis replaced Elizabeth Lord as chairman of mathematics. The change in fine arts went from William Koen to Sally Curtis to Elizabeth Devlet-Muraz to Marilyn Thayer. Special education was handled first by Lillian Conant, then by Joan Brooks, and now by Ann Holt.

Other personnel who hold or have held positions at Telstar are as follows (starred individuals remain on the staff): Anne-Louise Bailey (English); Jeffrey Clough (English); \*Richard Prescott (Business); Lynnea Perkett (Physical Education); \*Charles Taylor (Foreign Languages); Robert Lancaster (Physical Education); \*Susanne Bane (English); Diane Morton (English); \*Harry Strout (Industrial Arts); \*A. James Fiske (Science); \*Nancy Fox (English); \*Richard Collins (Social Studies); Jerry Durgin (English); \*Kathy Dunham (Physical Education); Willis Spaulding (Guidance); \*Paul Burke (Guidance); \*Bruce Buckland (Math-English); \*Robert Remington (Math); and \*Gayle Demers (Physical Education).

Continued on Page Eighteen



TELSTAR'S 1974 MAINE CLASS "C" BASEBALL CHAMPIONS — Left to right, front row — Paul Farrar, Doug Brooks, Wayne Cummings, Levi Brown, Walt Apple-

by, Peter Blake, and Dave Blanchard. Back row — Duffy Ellsworth, Randy Olson, Mark Thurlow, Bruce Cummings, Chris Olson, Mal Bennett, Alan Seames, and Coach Peter Brown.



### WALKING TOUR OF BETHEL HILL

Visitors and newcomers to Bethel, as well as residents out for a stroll, might direct themselves along the following route which passes locations and buildings which played an important role in the history of the village. Be attune to small details; columns, weather-vanes, interesting windows, as well as to well-groomed gardens along the path. Our tour begins at the Moses Mason House, on the corner of Broad Street and Mason Street, facing the Common.

\*\* Moses Mason House, 1813. Federal period home of Dr. Moses Mason, physician, teacher, postmaster, and public servant. The house is now a museum, restored by the Bingham Foundation, and furnished through local contribution by the Bethel Historical Society.

Walk in a southerly direction, left on Broad Street.

\*\* The Broad Street houses are distinguished by a variety of architectural features, as well as by their overall New England character, dating from the mid-to-late 19th century. Broad Street was once more popularly known as "Straw Street", as three of its residents, including Dr. Mason, married sisters, the Misses Straw.

\*\* National Training Laboratories. The large estate at the end of Broad Street is now the summer headquarters of this behavioral training organization. The main building was once the home of Dr. Gehring, one of the pioneers in the treatment of nervous disorders. The modern dining hall and dormitories were added by NTL.

Return to the Common, passing on the left side of Broad Street:

\*\* The large green victorian house was formerly the home of William Bingham II, Bethel benefactor.

\*\* The Bethel Inn. This side of the Common has been the site of three hotels during the town's history. The present Inn was built in 1913. It is open during the summer, offering golf, tennis and swimming facilities, as well as fine food and lodging.

\*\* The Common. Once the center of village life, the Common was the gift to the town of Eleazar Twitchell, one of the first settlers.

**OVER THE YEARS AT THE CORNER OF CHURCH AND MAIN STREETS** — At the right above is the Gilman Bean Store, decorated for the Centennial Celebration in June of 1896. At the left is as it looked on the morning of December 9, 1906, after the fire the previous evening. At the right is the Window Box at the location today in a structure built in 1910.

lers. His home, The Castle, once stood at the crest of Mill Hill (Route 5) and his mill at the foot of the hill. Mill Hill was once lined with manufacturing facilities; some evidences still remain in the rock walls along the brook. The Common was once fenced for cattle, but has for the most of its history been a park. The fountain was built in 1896, and a monument commemorating Bethel's war dead stands at the northerly end.

\*\* The Luce Oil Co. building was formerly a store. The second floor was known as "Ideal Hall" and was used for public functions.

\*\* Fire Station, 1965. This modern facility was preceded by a large frame building, "The Block," which housed a store, two apartments, community room, offices, and the fire department, at various times.

From the Common, proceed northerly on Church Street.

\*\* The large house on the corner of Church Street and the Common was at various times a store, a summer hotel, and for many years the summer home of Dr. William Rogers Chapman, whose accomplishments in the musical world brought much attention and some well-known musical personalities to Bethel.

\*\* The white building to the rear of the Wool 'n Weft Shop stands on the site of the first school house in Bethel. The houses on Church Street were built from the mid-to-late 19th century, soon after the development of the Common.

\*\* The Church of the Nazarene now occupies the building built in 1853 by the Universalist Society. Memorial windows are a later addition.

\*\* Park Street, off Church Street, leads to Kimball Park, which was developed in the 1860's by Ira C. Kimball.



\*\* The West Parish Congregational Church was built in 1847.

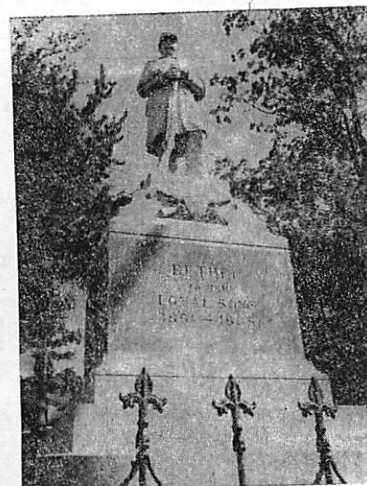
Turn right off Church Street and follow sidewalk in front of Gould infirmary to Elm and High Streets.

\*\* Gould Academy. Now a private preparatory school, Gould was founded in 1836 as a village academy. Through a series of generous benefactions, the campus took on its present appearance in the middle years of this century.

\*\* The Brick Grade School, built in the 1890's, stood on the archery field until the 1950's.

Follow High Street to the Civil War Monument.

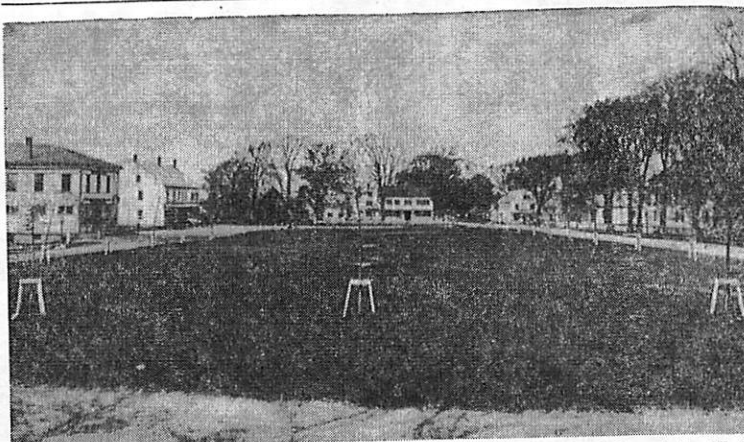
\*\* The vacant lot to the right once contained an old jail known popularly as the "Lock-Up". Tramps and other wanderers were allowed to spend the night here.



At the Civil War Monument, dedicated in 1908, turn right and head up Main Street.

\*\* The modern Casco Bank building, built in 1968, stands on the site originally occupied by Bryant's Market, operated by four generations of Bryants.

Continued on Page Seventeen



**THE COMMON LOOKING WEST**, probably in the early 1890's, showing what is presently the Luce Oil Company, then Edwin

C. Rowe's Store on the left, and the W. R. Chapman House to the right of center. At the right is the Straw House, now The Elms.



### A BRIEF SUMMARY OF GOULD ACADEMY'S ATHLETIC RECORDS OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES

In the space allotted in this commemorative issue of the Bethel Citizen for a summary of Gould Academy athletics over a span of several decades, obviously only the highlights can be touched upon. Therefore if the compiler has omitted any vital statistics as to names and records, may this serve as an apology, a mea culpa, and a promise to treat any former Gould grad who feels he's been neglected to a Charlie Farrar roast beef sandwich!

Quoting the Good Book, it is indeed true that in every sport played at Gould since the '30's, there were "giants in the earth in those days." And standing behind those "giants" from town and dorm students has been a list of coaches whose names bring a smile of happy recollections to the faces of those lucky enough to have reached various peaks of athletic prowess under their guidance: among the early pioneers were Clayt Fossett, basketball, and Wilbur Myers, football and baseball; following close on their heels came the respected and beloved Ordell, "Andy", "Coach", Anderson, whose nearly forty years at Gould remain unsurpassed in the history of Maine high school coaches' records as winning basketball coach, and who also coached tennis and baseball during his early years at the Bethel school; George Bowhay's carefully and knowledgeably coached baseball teams were among top placers year after year in the '40's, '50's, and '60's; Bob Scott's football teams reflected his expertise over nearly three decades; Joe Roderick's track teams, with an assist from Bob Scott, won several state meets, while his influence as confidant and friend to at least two generations of Gould boys went far beyond the contacts on the playing fields. In recent years, younger "giants" among coaches would surely include Frank Vogt, top mentor for cross country; Hi Berry and Bill Cousins in basketball; Paul Kailey for several years in skiing, and Al Barth in several fields of rugged outdoor living.

Thumbing through the carefully kept records of Coach Anderson, we find, in his words, that "beginning in the fall of 1932, Gould Academy re-established football as a major sport, and also making basketball, track, and baseball the three other major sports."

Although over the years, the dorm boys supplied many excellent athletes for all teams, a look at the records even before 1932, extending back into 1929, shows that it's the Bethel area boys who excelled; with this in mind, and in only a roughly chronological order, and employing what in the process is called in the movies a "montage", let's order, "front and center", the following stars to answer: Captain Jay Willard, 1929, basketball champ, very stern-faced, sitting with team members, Jim Alger (little did the latter dream of the distinguished Army career to come) and Ad Saunders, later proud dad of four Gould grads; Bob and Paul Browne, Coach Andy's brothers-in-law to be, outstanding in several sports in the early '30's; Basketball Captain Ed Robertson, 115 points in 1938; skipping to 1955, here's Ed Burnham, winner of twelve letters: football, skiing, baseball, and football captain in '55; turn back to '49, and look with awe-some admiration at Super Star Jerry Davis, who totals are 234 points in football, 894 in basketball, 271 plus in track, with a year to go; Al Sumner, pitcher supreme in '58 and '59; Don Brooks, '46, all-Maine center, class B football; Peter Blake, Telstar '74, only Bethel athlete to win 12 letters in a row since Bucky Burnham; turn way back to '33 and there you'll see that dignified insurance man, Norris Brown, slamming down the field as one of Gould's greatest fullbacks; Neil Olson, whose .431 batting average is Gould's highest; Danny Vogt, '71, All-Maine basketball guard, college '74; Mel Jodrey, national Nordic Ski champion. And many whose names lack of space makes it impossible to place here, but whose sportsmanship, plain "guts", and loyalty to Gould have played an integral part in making the words, "To thine own self be true" something much more than a quotation from "Hamlet!"

Two lists, one of school track records and state championships, seem fitting to "come down the final stretch" of this admittedly incomplete account of Gould's athletics:

First, individual track records: 100 yd. dash, R. Trimback, 10.3, 1955; 220 yd. dash, F. Ireland, 23.5, 1942, R. Trimback, 23.5, 1955;

### LIBERTY EMERY HOLDEN Gould Academy Benefactor

"One day in 1903, Frank Hanscom, who was principal of the Academy from 1897 to 1936, glanced through the glass doors beside his chair.

"A man was carefully measuring the girth of an elm tree beside the steps. He was well dressed but his actions were curious."

This familiar story in the annals of Gould Academy describes Liberty Emery Holden, class of 1853. He was back for his 50th reunion and was visiting the sapling he had planted as part of the graduation ceremony. It was now a sizeable tree.

Mr. Holden had come back to his native state to see how his first Alma Mater was doing. As a wealthy business man, former publisher, educator and owner of profitable western mines, Mr. Holden was very enthusiastic about the progress made by the school. To show his pleasure he added \$100 to Mr. Hanscom's salary that year plus \$200 for general expenses.

In 1904 he presented the former Abner Davis house to the Academy as a home for the Principal (now a Gould faculty home occupied by the Chandlers). Four years later Mr. Holden purchased the Goodwin Wiley house. It was remodeled and fitted up as a dormitory for boarding students at the cost of \$20,000.

Liberty Emery Holden was born June 21, 1833, the oldest of 11 children. He attended Gould Academy in Bethel, 20 miles from the family farm. He walked home each week end, worked on the farm and then returned in time for Monday classes.

After visiting an uncle in Philadelphia, he was fired with the idea of obtaining a college education. He not only had to earn his tuition, board and room, but the labor of a man to work on the farm in his place.

Liberty Holden was 16 years old when he became a schoolteacher in his neighborhood. When he had saved enough money to

enter Waterville College, now Colby College, he continued teaching whenever possible.

Then he heard of a new college in the west where a bright student could work his way by being an instructor. After two years at Waterville he applied for an instructorship at Ann Arbor, Mich. He was accepted and made plans to stay there until he earned his master's degree.

After his instructorship at Ann Arbor he became Professor of English and History at Kalamazoo College.

In 1860 Holden married one of his former students, Libby Bulkley. They expected to spend the rest of their lives on one campus or another. Since college professors were paid very little they looked for a way to better their financial conditions. He decided that a new field must be found if he was to educate his family eventually to number nine children, according to his desires.

The family moved to Cleveland and he studied law while his wife took relatives as boarders.

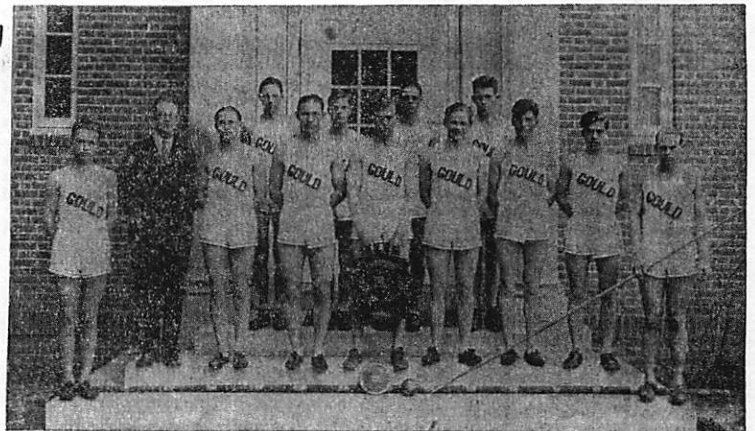
No sooner had Liberty Emery Holden passed his bar examination than he was all afire with a new idea!

Cleveland was growing so fast that Holden realized real estate offered the opportunity he desired. In partnership with his brother-in-law, Charles Bulkley, he entered land development.

Soon he owned many pieces of property in Cleveland. Some was land that later was owned and occupied by Western Reserve University and Case School. Within a few years he had accumulated enough money to consider new investments.

He always had a strong feeling for adventure and a wanderlust. The age of steel was about to develop so he put his savings into iron mines in the Lake Superior region. He held onto them for a time and later sold them for four times what he paid. Later the buyer resold the property for 50 times the original investment!

Continued on Page Sixteen



440 yard, Corey Brown, 53.6, 1964; 88 yd. run, V. Damone, 2:05.5, 1965; Mile, F. Judkins, 4:35, 1962; 110 low hurdles, R. Ireland, 13.4, 1949; 2 mile, McMillin, 9:00, ??; 120 yd. high hurdles, G. Whitten, 16.6, 1958; Discus, J. Davis, 140 ft. 9 1/2 in., 1949; High Jump, Jerry Davis, 5 ft. 9 in., 1949; Triple Jump, B. Lane, 41 ft. 8 in., 1965; Broad Jump, F. Ireland, 20 ft. 8 in., 1942.

Second, state championships: Football, 1965; Baseball, 1949-50; Cross country, 1956-58-65-66; Skiing, 1949-53-54-56-60-61-62; Track, 1946-47-49-51-53-54-55-56-58-61; Basketball, 1933, Western Me. 1946 Runners-up, State 1934, Runners-up State, 1938-47-70-71.

Coaches Anderson and Roderick say that the years from '46 to '50 were the Golden Years of Gould Academy's athletic accomplishment.

And finally, when Joe Roderick was asked to supply a few reminiscent remarks, he said: "The most humorous thing I remember was a sort of unconscious 'streaking' event which occurred during a basketball game, when Coach Anderson asked a certain lad to substitute. All aglow, the eager lad tore off his sweat suit pants and trotted out on the floor in his jock strap." Undoubtedly Andy's face became all aglow, too! From the personal angle, Joe also

**GOULD TRACK TEAM, 1929** — Back row (left to right) — James Alger, Franklin S. Chapman, Wilson Bartlett, George Parsons. Front row — John Twaddle, Clayton Fossett, Coach, Emil Johnson, Charles Burnham, Jay Willard (Captain), Carleton Holmes, Robert Bean, Ernest Hancock, Manager, Alan Chesebrough.

picked Dr. Charles Smith as the finest coordinated athlete he ever coached, and Dick Marshall as the smartest "clutch" player, while in Joe's book, the most courageous was Mel Jodrey, whose tragic death a few years later was mourned by hundreds who knew him through his athletic ability. The incident which moved Joe to name him for courage beyond the call of duty occurred at the State Track Meet in Waterville, when, after being unintentionally spiked, and losing one shoe, Mel ran the rest of the quarter mile barefoot on a spiky cinder track. And as an example of devotion to duty, Joe named Dr. William O'Brien, who missed only one football practice in four years—and then only because of a dental appointment.

It's this compiler's sincere hope that if this article does indeed prove that there were "giants in the earth in those days", it will be an inspiration for present and future local high school athletes to "go thou and do likewise."



### HISTORY OF BETHEL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Few, if any records are in existence regarding an organized fire department in Bethel previous to 1890, the year the town water system was put into service.

About the first units of a fire department consisted of three pieces of equipment—a hook and ladder carriage manned by twelve men, and two hose companies with twelve men assigned to the operation of each hose cart. The department consisted of a total of thirty six men and a chief.

One hose company was stationed in a small shed near the present site of the Casco Bank. The ladder company and another hose company were quartered in a building which was then on the spot of the present fire station.

The hose and ladder wagons were moved from their stations to fires by any means at hand—using man, horse or automobile as the moving force. The members of the department were all volunteers. The compensation was seventy-five cents for the first hour's work at the fire, and fifty cents an hour thereafter.

Most of the calls were for chimney fires which were likely to require ladder climbing and scrambling over roof-tops—all too often in snowstorms and below zero temperatures. Risking life and limb for seventy-five cents an hour could hardly be considered over-payment, but the job was done, and by companies of men who voluntarily joined the fire department.

An alarm bell was installed on top of the upper station with a rope attached to the clapper so it could be sounded from street level. Sometime later a second bell was put into service. This bell was mounted on the roof of the lower hose station. It is interesting to note that this bell finally came to a new home on a church in Brownfield following the disastrous fires in the fall of 1947. Still later an electric siren was substituted for the lower station bell.

Eventually the siren was moved from the roof of the lower hose unit shelter to the upper hose and ladder house, then, after a few years, to the cupola of the present fire station, where it is now in operation along with a compressed air horn to sound an alarm of fire.

The original bell is not used now and probably will be placed on the Common or other viewable spot as a memorial to the volunteer firemen of days gone by.

In 1936 the first gasoline-driven pumper was purchased by the town. This American La France unit was in service about eighteen years until its pump gave out and could no longer be used.

In 1954 a Mack pumper was ordered, but before the truck was delivered, a used Buffalo pumper was purchased and used to fill in the gap until the Mack truck arrived. This Mack unit is to be replaced by a modern American LaFrance pumper so Bethel can count on fine fire protection by modern equipment and a competent and loyal crew of men.

[Grateful acknowledgement for the information on which the foregoing article is based is hereby extended to Mr. Herbert Rowe, a former Bethel fireman, and to Mr. Lloyd Luxton, who was chief of the department for seven years.]

**YEARS AGO** — The date of the above photograph is not known but it was found in the Corporation Building during its razing prior to the construction of the present fire station in 1965. Men on the left (front to back) are: Tom Hastings, George King, Clarence Fox, Davis Lovejoy, and Sam Gibson. In the back are: Lisco Hall (head showing over the team), Llewellyn Pratt, Bill Low, Ted King and Elmer Young. Driving the team is Charles Cross, and the boy in the wagon is George King Jr.

### MASON:

#### THE STORY OF CARIBOU MOUNTAIN

Caribou Mountain is a great forest-clad prominence that dominates the range of mountains in the township of Mason, the area named in honor of Dr. Moses Mason. It is 2,828 feet above sea level. On a clear day, before the forest obscured the horizon, climbers could see the ocean from its summit with the assistance of binoculars.

It received its name because two brothers shot the last caribou in the region there in 1854 and carved their name on a rock on top of the mountain. On the crest is an acre of flat land carpeted with lichen, red cranberries and soft green moss. On the side of the mountain is a bear's den formed by rock shelves. After entering on hands and knees, visitors find three rooms high enough to stand upright in.

In 1908 four men built Camp Caribou. A carriage road was swamped out and a telephone line strung up to the cabin designed to shelter guests who appreciate rustic living. A guest book there had the names of many great and near-great personalities. Many rode up on a lurching backboard to where a recreational area was set up on the plateau.

Croquet grounds were leveled off, hammocks were hung, lawn swings and chairs were placed at vantage points. A mineral spring was supposed to have a medicinal value.

Tragedy also played a part in the Caribou Mountain story. About 1920 Capt. J. Waldo Nash, a Norway taxidermist and Captain of Company D, was stricken with a heart attack while visiting the camp.

Dr. R. R. Tibbetts of Bethel was taken to the top of the mountain to attend the patient. The Captain was carried down on a stretcher and was never again able to roam the woods he loved.

At the turn of the century, Herbert Richardson, a trapper, used to snowshoe 40 miles from Norway to the mountain where he set out a trapping line. The last time he came out he brought 13 sable furs. An old newspaper clipping says these were the last ones found there.

When we look at the large silent mountain we can visualize incidents that occurred in its past. Now a foot trail from both the east and west side, leads to the summit of Caribou Mountain.

#### Did You Know:

That in 1836 the tuition at Bethel (later Gould) Academy was \$2.50 per quarter or 25c per week?

That in 1902 F. L. Edwards put 5,000 cords of pulpwood into the Androscoggin for the Rumford mills?

### OLD SETTLERS

Space does not permit an account that would do justice to the chronicles of all of Bethel's early families who still have descendants living in the area. What follows is only a brief sketch.

The frequency with which the early records of many settlements were burned might lead one to believe that strict honesty over land acquisitions has never been part of the human condition. Our earliest pioneers' major concern was survival. With the turning of the century and statehood in 1820, more records, letters, diaries were preserved. From those a picture emerges of the kinds of people who came here, and of the quality of their living.

Different reasons motivated different people to move on. Some had been surreptitious Tories and were glad to be away from somewhat suspicious neighbors. Others had actively defied the British, had prices on their heads and found a measure of safety here. Everyone, of necessity, worked hard, but with different personal goals. Some families, such as the Hastings, Stanleys, and Russells, were secure in themselves, coming from a long line of ancestors who had held land in Britain before the Norman conquest, and who had established a record of devoted public service over an 800 year period.

Other families, lacking this proud heritage, worked even harder to make the American dream a reality. One family followed strict tradition: the first son for the church; the second for medicine; the third for law and public service (he went off as a Democratic representative to Congress). The fourth went "into trade" in New York City to earn some money to help support the oncoming siblings. Even he, once established, went to Congress although in a different party from that of his brother. The only daughter went for a year to boarding school.

Then there were the "hippies" of their day. Britain could send her troublesome younger sons off to serve the Empire in India. Families who had proudly established themselves in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts whisked their intransigent offspring up to the province of Maine, almost a wilderness. They did not embrace the Protestant ethic or the middle class values of their sober industrious neighbors, but they obeyed the law and kept the public peace. On their own bailiwicks, they administered their own brand of justice. One father is said to have unmercifully overworked his growing sons. Physical manhood attained, they had revenge. They nailed the old man in a barrel and rolled him off the ledge on the east side of the mountain. He survived and no one even raised a whisper of complaint.

The welfare state was not in existence, but they did not swoop down like Bagworthy Doones to prey upon the valley folk. Rather they gained their ends in a more subtle way, appealing to their prosperous neighbors' sense of noblesse oblige, and to their desire to be known as country squires. One man always underfed and over-worked his horses, when chided for this, answered, "It doesn't matter, I know I can go down and get — — — to

Continued on Page Fifteen



# LOGGING — THEN AND NOW

Bethel, Maine, and the surrounding valleys and mountains has been a center of logging activity since it was first settled and probably before, as lumberjacks usually preceded the first permanent settlers by as many years as it took to strip the timber from the land. Cutting the trees so that "John Farmer could go about his work" is how one early woodsman put it. Situated as it is on the Androscoggin, one of the more famous log driving rivers down which such notable loggers as Jigger Jones and Dan Bosse once rode logs and pulpwood to the mill, it was inevitable that logging and sawmilling would be the dominant early industries in Bethel, supplying jobs for a large proportion of the town's population. Even today, despite the onslaught of civilization, and the resultant influx of city people, tourists, campers, real estate developers, and well-intentioned but sometimes misinformed environmentalists, logging and its related industries remain the major source of employment in this area.

When the first loggers came to Bethel, their tools were simple and their work was hard. Logging everywhere was about the same at that time. The industrial age was not yet upon us and the logger had very few tools for cutting wood at his disposal. For years—right up to the late 1800's—all he had was an axe, a few simple chains and hooks, a "hayburner" be it horse, mule or ox, his imagination, and the elements of Mother Nature.

Mostly, logging was winter work as snow was needed to smooth the terrain and to make skidding the logs easier. Generally loggers would go into the woods in late summer or early fall, do some rudimentary road work, build a camp—with sometimes as many as fifty men sleeping under one roof — and wait for snow. Sometimes a dam was built on a stream or river if the water supply for the spring drive looked doubtful. With freeze-up and the first snow, four months of six days a week, daylight to dark work began. Their days were mostly all the same—they would go into the woods in the morning after a breakfast of salt pork and beans (which is usually what they had had for supper and dinner, too, varied only occasionally with fresh venison or bear meat) cut the trees down with axes, limb and buck them into lengths also with an axe, and skid the logs to a brow or rollway from which they could be rolled into the river or stream when the spring thaw came. Sundays were spent grinding axes, repairing chains, swapping stories, visiting other camps, but mostly doing nothing. After six days of extreme physical exertion, just lying in their bunks felt pretty good. There was seldom a "prayer book" or any other reading matter in camp. Loggers talked to their Creator only when calling down His wrath on a stubborn tree or horse, or anything else that might keep the logs from flowing smoothly from the stump to the landing.

Springtime brought the end of the season's work for the logger, and who could blame him if all he wanted to do was go into town and get a skinfull of whiskey and a young lady to help him spend his hard earned money. After four months in camp most loggers were

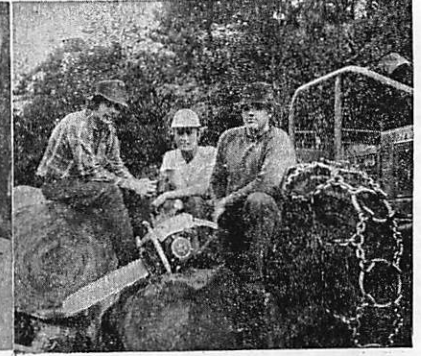


In Earlier Days (on Bethel's Broad Street)

ready to "howl." But first the logs had to be driven to the mill, which was usually many miles down river. Driving logs down a river was one of the most exciting spectacles in American industry if any that have ever described it can be taken at their word. It attracted the most daring of men and the most skillful. River drivers had to ride logs, break jams, chase stray logs that might get hung up on the bank of the river, and in general, make sure that each and every log that had been cut that winter got to the mill. They were always cold and wet, and most couldn't swim. Often enough a drive was marked by the drowning of a river man, or one might be lost as he tripped the key log in a rollway and the ensuing rush of logs crushed him beneath their weight. When this happened, the logger was usually recovered, buried without ceremony, and his caulked boots were nailed to a nearby tree, probably as a warning to other loggers.

With the logs safely in the boom—a large holding apparatus consisting of logs chained end to end—it was time for the loggers to celebrate, and celebrate they did. Before creeping civilization brought such things as intolerance and jails to logging towns, many loggers were renowned as much for their ability to spend a winter's wages in two weeks as for their ability with an axe.

Sadly, modern logging or modern lumberjacks bear little resemblance to their brothers of the past. In 1856, a Mr. C. Lanman described lumberjacks in this way: "They are a young and powerfully built race of men, mostly New Englanders, generally unmarried, and though rude in their manner, and intemperate, are quite intelligent. They seem to have a passion for their wild and toilsome life, and judging from their dress, I should think possess a fine eye for the comic and fantastic." Though it is still applicable in a few cases today, most modern loggers have been assimilated into society and are only slightly distinguishable from other working men. Gone are the times when a logger could be defined as a separate species as one writer did in the early part of this century when he reported that, "two men and a logger drowned while crossing Lake Michigan."



A LOGGING CREW IN 1974 — Crews are now considerably smaller—a three man crew can work very efficiently. Usually one man chops, one skids the wood, the other saws on the landing. Pictured are Tony Chapman, Bethel; Carroll Murphy, Greenwood, and Alan Chapman, Bethel. A power chain saw is used throughout the logging operation from chopping to sawing on the landing.

Many, many changes have taken place in the logging profession since the first settlers stepped off the ships that brought them to this country and began clearing this wild new land. Axes were first replaced by bucksaws and crosscuts in the late 1800's, and then these were replaced by gasoline powered chainsaws in the early 1950's. Horses were still in widespread use right up into the 1960's, but everything had been tried to get them out of the woods. First it was steam log haulers which carried huge loads of logs through the woods, but still had to be hot yarded to with horses. Then the Caterpillar-type tractor came into use, usually trailing some kind of a wheeled arch to lift the ends off the ground so that they would drag easier. Sometimes they pulled sleds, or slougees—as they were called when horses pulled them. This contrivance was nothing more than a pair of runners connected by a timber to which was hooked a tongue for drawing it, and another large timber placed on top of the runners to which the logs were secured with chains. This top timber was called a bunk. If a sled had longer runners and another bunk at the rear so that both ends of the log were off the ground, it was called a scoot. Another combination was the sled and dray, which consisted of a sled and a trailing rack upon which pulpwood was loaded.

Wheeled skidders—large four wheel drive rubber tired tractors usually powered by a diesel engine, and featuring oscillating frames or axles and articular steering—came onto the market in the late 1950's and early 1960's and gained rapid acceptance as the fastest, easiest method of moving trees from the stump to the landing. At about the same time hydraulic log and pulp loaders began replacing cant dogs and pulp hooks for loading trucks, which themselves had replaced rivers and railroads as the most efficient means of getting the wood to the mill.

The last word in logging? No right thinking modern logger would dare guess what it would be. Even now in places not too distant from Bethel, chainsaws have been set down in favor of hydraulic shears which sever a tree at near ground level in seconds. Whole trees, tops and all, are being "skidded" by skylines and helicopters, fed to giant "whole tree" chippers, and trucked to the mill in vans. What was begun essentially to clear fields and provide lumber for building houses has now become a major industry, supplying raw materials for the making of everything from paper to paint thinner.

There will always be forests around Bethel, and trees will always be harvested here. Large landowners such as the National Forest, International Paper Company, Oxford Paper Company, Brown Paper Company, and P. H. Chadbourne and Company will see to that. But the old time lumberjack will never again walk those forests. That fellow in the red flannel shirt, caulked boots, and wool cap who could roar as loud as Zeus himself, who cut wood with an axe, who was only mildly interested in anything but logging, drinking, and women, is gone. He has been replaced by bland machine operators who worry about things like in-

Continued on Page Fourteen



A LOGGING CREW IN EARLY 1940. The picture was taken on a job contracted by Harry Howe, Bryant Pond, first on left, in "Bear Hollow" in North Woodstock. Shown are the tools of the trade in earlier days—a crosscut

saw being held by the late Llewelyn "Tinker" Buck; an axe being held by the late Winfield Noyes; bucksaws being held by Hanno Cushman, Bryant Pond, and Kenneth Buck, Bethel. The teamsters are Hank Jordan, Portland, and Harry Howe.

## ALBERT SKILLINGS ON OXEN:

(a taped interview)

Albert Skillings and his family live on a farm on Skillings Hill in Bethel. It is one of the few remaining family farms in the town, and is unique in that much of the farm work is ox-powered. Mr. Skillings is well-known in the area as a blacksmith; although he is retired he maintains his shop on the farm and does his own work.

\*\*\*

I commenced when I was a boy raising steers and I've had them at times ever since. There have been times when I've worked at something else and haven't had steers and oxen, but mostly I've had them on the farm when I've been blacksmithing. When I was a boy I lived here in Maine, then I had steers. My father was always working in the woods with his horses. As soon as my steers got big enough and I got big enough then I helped haul logs. Then my folks went back to Massachusetts and I went with them worked in a shop to learn my trade. When I left there I came back here worked around quite a few years. Most of the time I was driving for somebody else. I drove horses and I drove oxen.

There's a lot of things you can do with horses that you can't do with oxen. You can use horses on a lot of farm machinery where you can't use oxen, mainly because you can't handle the machinery and the oxen too. Horses will stand the heat a lot better. The oxen don't sweat same as the horse does, you know. In hot weather during the summer when you're working oxen you have to get up awfully early and let them lay off in the heat of the day, and work them in the evening. In hot weather years ago when they used to use oxen on the road, hauling lumber, they used to work nights. The first winter I drove when I came back here to work, there were 28 steers and oxen working on the road that I was on—they belonged to a lot of different people—they were all hauling wood into Rumford.

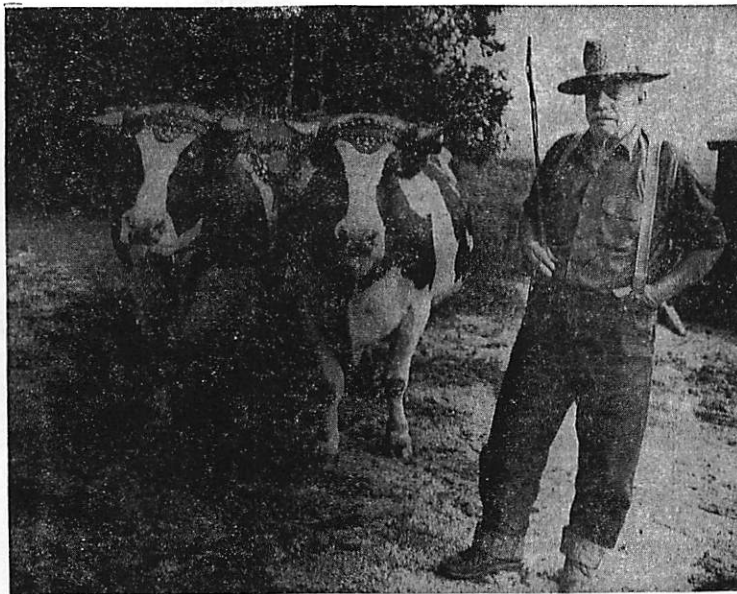
I use tractors now some — I did all my work with oxen for quite a long time, but we do use the oxen quite a lot now.

Training takes according to how much time you work 'em. I had one team that was never halter broke 'til they were 3 years old and then I started to break them—they gave me a pretty hard time for awhile. I got them to working and then I bought another pair that was handy and took four together and I worked them about two years all the time together. The pair that was handy helped train the others. It helps you to handle them — put the steers on lead, then when the oxen stop they'll stop the steers. Ordinarily you start them and always work them on the same side—if for some reason you want to change them, and I have, you have to break them over. Some learn faster than others. You motion more or less with your whip or your goad-stick and they follow that. They learn awful quick to mind the motions of a stick or whip. Some are pretty hard to handle when you start and some will always be more high-lifted than others, but ordinarily they're quite even dispositioned—pretty docile.

I make about all the equipment that I've had—the yokes, bows, and of course, I've done my own iron work, always built my own sleds, built wagons, too. New England people always used neck yokes, there are several types of them; the ordinary farm yoke, and they used to make a shorter yoke to use in the winter in the woods on a snow road. After awhile someone got the idea to make a slide yoke, so that the oxen could slide up nearer together when they came to a narrow place in the road or step out wider at a wide point. They could follow on a horse track. There had to be a provision to keep the draft in the center or one ox would get more of the load than the other.

I have used a head yoke before. That's how the Nova Scotia people work their oxen and always have. I worked in the woods quite a lot with the Nova Scotia people and they worked their cattle in head yokes and I thought it was a pretty good idea. With the head yoke you don't have that come and go on the length of the neck, the yoke is right up on their head, strapped tight.

I don't know of any oxen in the Bethel area—only mine. But there's quite a lot scattered around over the state and through New England. A good many people keep them for fairs, for show. But there's a few people that work them. I don't see them increasing, there



aren't many people like to work that way now. When the depression came in the '30s, there were quite a lot of people went back to oxen, quite a lot of oxen raised and worked, until World War II started and the price of beef went up, and they all cashed in their oxen for beef. There haven't been many since. You couldn't carry on a big place like these potato farms here, and most of the small farms, family farms have disappeared. That's where the oxen were kept.

They used to work 6 ox teams quite a lot in the woods but around a farm 4 is about enough to handle, course if you've got small cattle and heavy work you can use more. They used to use 4 a lot plowing and harrowing, but when you get more than that—well, its more work to drive them and handle them. When they were working in the woods with oxen, they used to work 6 together with a 2 sled rigging, sets of sleds with a rack of sleds with bunks on them. The old way—they used to drag the logs a lot. Once we had 198 cords of wood up on the steep side of a mountain and we bunched it off—it was too steep for a sled. We bunched that 198 cords of wood off there in 20 days with one ox.

I used to work some of the time driving horses—good many winters I've driven horses. One winter I drove a 4 horse team hauling supplies for a logging camp from Rumford to South Arm, Richardson Lake. Used to make 2 trips a week, 3 days round trip. I'd start from the camp in the morning, stay at North Rumford overnight, Rumford Falls and load up the next day, back to North Rumford that night, next day I'd go to camp.

I haven't gone to fairs a great lot. When I did I'd most always get something. I'd get my share in the classes that I had cattle to go in. There's a lot of competition now, a lot of oxen get out to fairs. I went to a parade down in Norway. They had some kind of celebration and we went and hauled a float in there. They had oxen in parades in Bethel, Richard Stevens and his boys had some in parades a couple of times, Mollyockett Day. They had mine out there once to the Nativity Scene at Christmas-time. The truck couldn't get up the hill, pretty icy, and so I happened to have them shod and sharpened so I drove them almost down to the main road and they sent a truck out after them.

I used to go to town with oxen a lot years ago. I had one pair that would go from here to the top of Mill Hill, Luce Oil Co., in 55 minutes. They were pretty high-lifted, but I've had others that wouldn't go so fast. That pair I could get right onto the wagon here—didn't have to walk to drive them, and I didn't get off 'til I got right into the village, 55 minutes from the time I left here they'd be going round that corner. After they get used to working, you can ride, on roads where they know where they're going. That pair would keep on the right side of the road too! I had some oxen that could be driven single, even with a horse rigging and reins. After they get broke they will usually stand where you

leave them, long as you want them too. Way back long time ago I've been into Bethel with steers that weren't broke, then there were hitching posts along the curbing, and you used to hitch them. I don't go with them now, but up until a few years I used to go quite often. People didn't think much about it—they were used to seeing teams. Last of my going with them, once in a while somebody'd make some remark. When they built the pipeline, I used to go to the village once in a while with the oxen and the pipeline men all took notice, because they came from places where they didn't have oxen, I imagine. At that time it was all the way I had of going—it was go with the oxen or go afoot! I used to go and get my groceries with them.

Once long ago we were living out in Northwest Bethel and I had a pair of steers. It was in 1912 or so when Prof. Chapman had just landscaped what is now the Norseman. The road had been re-routed and graded and he was planning a big opening with the governor. However as I was coming towards town, didn't notice the new road and headed right up through it. The next day I read in the paper how some crazy farm kid had plowed right through that new road and left a track — jumped the gun on the dedication I guess.

I've hauled hay off the island in the Androscoggin River with oxen—forded the river with them. I cut the hay on the island up between West Bethel and Northwest Bethel one summer. 'Twas quite a big island. We had two wagons and two pair of oxen. We'd go over and get hay ready and we'd load up 2 loads at a time, put the 4 oxen on one wagon to get through the river—the bank was pretty muddy, hard place to come up. Then we'd go back and get the other load and haul that over, and then we'd put a pair of oxen on each wagon and go to the barn. That was 36 years ago.

Times have changed, now oxen are quite valuable. When I was a boy you could buy a good pair of oxen for \$150, and \$200 was considered a big price. That would be a pretty good pair of oxen, all broke, to be worth \$200. Now they've valued a great deal higher. Of course, the price of beef affects the price of oxen a good deal. But a pair of oxen that are handy, and good workers, are worth more than they're worth for beef. After 10-12 years most people generally sell them so they go for beef, while they're still in their prime, to get top beef price. A good team would be good to work 'til they're 14 years old. I have known people to keep them 'til they were 18, just like an old horse.

## Did You Know:

That Herrick Brothers advertised Ford cars from \$430 to \$640 with fifteen body types in 1921?

That in 1799, Rev. Gould was paid a salary of \$180 per year, one-third as money, two-thirds as produce, plus \$150 to be paid in labor, and a few cords of wood?



## GOULD ACADEMY TODAY

Gould Academy stands today as one of the most prominent independent secondary schools in the Northeast. Founded in 1836 as a traditional public academy, Gould has been completely independent of public support since 1968. During the past six years, the Academy enrollment has more than doubled to a capacity enrollment of over 225 students today. This is a particularly noteworthy achievement in light of the fact that in the past four to five years enrollments in boarding schools all across the country have been in a steep decline.

Among the new and innovative programs that now are offered at the Academy are: Environmental Survival Program, or E. S. P. as it is known on campus, Foreign Exchange Programs, A Better Chance (ABC), and a very far reaching art program.

The unique Environmental Survival Program is an experiment in outdoor education. This program which is based on the precepts of the now famous Outward Bound Schools, attempts to build self-awareness and confidence by active participation in canoeing, sailing, outdoor survival, mountaineering, rock climbing, foraging, tenting, map work and other skills essential to survival in Maine's wilderness environments.

A robust Foreign Exchange Program brings students from other countries to spend three months to a full academic year at Gould. Gould students, too, spend an equal amount of time in any one of a number of countries including Mexico, Germany, France and others. This last academic year saw twenty-seven foreign students at Gould and eleven Gould students in other lands.

The now famous A Better Chance (ABC) Program has brought increasing numbers of Black and Puerto Rican students from all parts of the country into the Gould community, enriching the Academy and confronting its members with expectations and values that for many are new.

The Gould Academy Art Department has introduced a number of exciting new courses and concepts to the students. The Academy is now one of the very few secondary schools in the country that offers a course in glass blowing. Aluminum casting and ceramics are very popular courses, too. Photography at Gould covers black and white as well as full courses in color picture taking and developing. In photography, Academy students and faculty have pioneered in dissolving slide sequences that have been widely acclaimed as a new art medium.

Gould Academy meets the future with a flexibility and a willingness to adapt to the new trends in education without losing sight of the value of sound traditions.

## "1931"

The following is reprinted from the 1931 special edition of the "Oxford County Citizen."

The writer would like to convey to the people who will take our places 25 or 50 years from now, some of the habits, customs, thoughts and pleasures of the average person living in Bethel in 1931, so that you who may read this in 1956 or 1981 may compare your lot with ours.

About everyone has an automobile of some kind, which will travel over our roads safely at the rate of 45 mph. The majority of these cars cost approximately \$600 new, and 70% of the cars one sees are in this class, about 60% being purchased on the installment plan.

Our main thoroughfares are mostly of tarvia with stretches here and there of cement and macadam. Without doubt you in 1956 will have all cement roads or something even better.

About everyone has a radio, this being invented only eight years ago and every day becoming more active as a source of pleasure and interest. Recently we have heard a great deal of television, but as yet it has not been placed on the market.

We have two airplanes in Bethel. Many of us have been up, but there are still some who cannot be induced to fly. It is now possible, and has been accomplished several times, to fly to almost any section of the world. There are established air routes between every important city. One wonderful record has just been made by two American aviators, who flew around the world in less than 10 days.

Talking pictures afford a great deal of pleasure, these being improved upon every-



Built in 1865, the Bethel station was closed Oct. 31, 1968, and razed in December of 1968.

## IN AND OUT OF BETHEL BY TRAIN

The railroad era in Bethel began in 1849 with the building of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad in Portland, reaching Bethel in 1851-52. The first scheduled passenger train arrived on March 10, 1852, after a three-hour trip from Portland. Regular passenger service commenced in 1853, but the ownership of the line had passed to the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. This service continued uninterrupted until the early 1960's when passenger service was halted on the Canadian National Railroad in the state of Maine.

During the early years of the railroad, passenger service between Bethel and Portland and Bethel and Montreal progressed from one train to three trains per day in each direction. The "up" trains were very handy for local people in that they could go to Berlin in the forenoon and come back in the afternoon. In the other direction, the "down" trains made a round trip from Bethel to Portland getting residents back home in time for supper. People could also go to Lewiston on the train as the mainline trains made connections with the Lewiston branch train. The trains were also used by school children in the area attending Gould Academy. Gould's athletic teams travelled to their athletic events in outlying towns such as Groveton, N. H., on the train.

Bethel has always been a very busy station for freight. For years there were freight trains going through Bethel about every twenty minutes, and this lasted up until the acquisition of the Grand Trunk Railway by the Canadian National Railway, in February, 1923. In the early 1900's local farmers sent their milk to the creameries in South Paris, Auburn and Portland by train. Some of the farmers sent their milk to Berlin, and the milk went up in the morning and the empty cans were returned in the afternoon. Over the years, thousands of cars of apples were loaded in Bethel as well as wood products, which have always been the major shipments out of here. World War II saw the shipment of mica in carload lots from Bethel, and pulpwood being shipped to Berlin at the rate of eight to ten cars per day. Wood chips and similar products now handled by truck were shipped

day. Very fine productions and talent have been given the public at very reasonable prices, hence their immense popularity.

Rents in Bethel are from \$12 to \$25 per month. Groceries are the lowest they have been in 20 years. Wages are from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per day for the ordinary workman.

For the past year and a half, we have been passing through the greatest depression of all times, and extending throughout the entire world. If however, History repeats itself, conditions will be better before long.

We look back 50 years and see many changes that have taken place during those times and these and try to imagine what the future holds for you. What changes and improvements you will be subject to we can only guess. Nevertheless, please remember what with the things mentioned above, short skirts and prohibition? our lot could be worse.

Our last word to you is that we hope you, of 1981, will find life as good, if not better than we of 1931.

George N. Thompson  
Oxford County Citizen  
August 3, 1931

by rail. The freight era in Bethel and surrounding towns came to a close as a result of high rates and lack of available service.

Many fraternal organizations, the Grange and the Associations used the train to go to State and National conventions, or just to travel to South Paris for meetings. On Sundays there was a special train called the Paper Train. It used to leave Portland early Sunday morning and deliver the papers to all the small towns from Portland to Berlin, and going back, pick up the milk that was ready. This train ran until the late 1920's when its activities were taken over by trucks. Another benefit of rail service was the prompt delivery of mail. A letter mailed in Boston at 7 a. m. would arrive in Bethel on an afternoon train. At Christmas-time there was an extra baggage car for the Christmas mail.

In the early days of train service, engines burnt wood and Bethel was a fueling station, where wood, purchased from local suppliers, was loaded on tenders of the engines. Bethel was also a watering stop. At one time there were two cranes in the Bethel yard, where the engines could take on water. Originally this water may have come from the area in back of the Tibbetts house on Main Street, but later the water was obtained from the town. The water cranes were taken out in the mid-1920's when the bigger engines in use were able to go longer distances without taking on water. The wood-burning engines were discontinued around the turn of the century.

During the latter part of the last century and the first part of this century, despite the six daily passenger trains, doctors going to Gilead, Locke Mills, Bryant Pond and West Bethel in the winter used the freight trains. There was an agreement with the railroad that if a doctor wanted to use the train, he would contact the agent in Bethel who would notify his counterpart at the next station up or down, who would then alert the first train to stop at Bethel and pick up the doctor. The return trip was similarly arranged.

William Bingham II used the railroad for many years on his trips to Bethel. His private car was attached to the train in Portland in the forenoon and was brought to Bethel and set off on a track adjacent to the station where Mr. Bingham and his entourage disembarked. The car was then sent back to New York where it stayed until Mr. Bingham was ready to leave in September. Although private cars were not uncommon amongst the affluent, Mr. Bingham was probably the only person whose private car came to Bethel.

During the building of the railroad, many local people were hired to work on the project, and local bridge builders and masons built the bridges and overpasses. In 1850-51, the railroad imported a crew of Irish immigrants to work on the railroad. Some of them worked in this area and stayed here, settling in the area off Route 35, known as Greenwood's Irish Neighborhood. Some of the descendants of those Irish railroad workers still reside in that area today. The railroad created several jobs locally. In the station, an agent, telegraph operator, and a baggageman or freight handler were employed. There were people with coaches and sleighs who came to the station to transport people to inns about town, and to destinations outside the village. There used to be a stage from Bethel up through to Errol, N. H., and Magalloway.

### BETHEL'S MUSICAL PAST

In the days before television, people in the community had a good time providing their own entertainment. A wonderful spirit of cooperation existed in presenting plays, concerts, musicals, minstrel and variety shows for the benefit of the churches and other organizations.

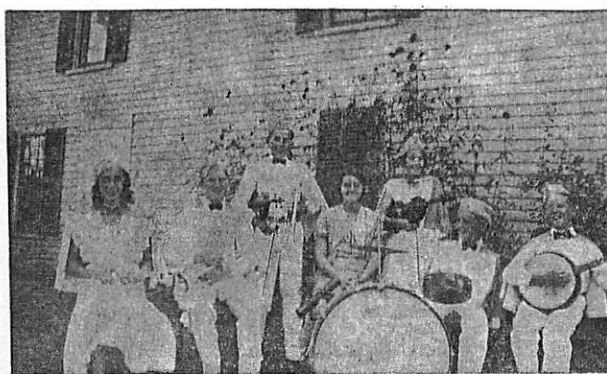
Some of those who will be remembered as the force behind the scenes are Erma Thurston Young, Mrs. A. Van Den Kerckhoven, Mrs. Alma Thurston, Winfield Howe, and others. Erma Thurston Young, herself a fine musician, directed a children's orchestra known as the Bethel "Bluebirds". The Bluebirds achieved attention in a wider arena when they broadcast over WCSH radio from Portland; however this group seems to recall with most delight the fun involved in their musical contribution to the Bethel scene.

In 1936 Mrs. Young organized the Bethel Band, which was of great service to the community, and added much to the enjoyment of thousands in the area. During the eight years they were in existence under the direction of Harry Cohen of Rumford, the Band not only gave concerts on the Common through the summer months, and marched in the local parades, but also furnished music at the Fall Fairs in Norway and Fryeburg, and took part in the parades in many of the surrounding towns.

Some of the early members of the Bethel Band were Arthur Herrick, Ralph Young, Earl Davis, Jesse Doyen, Fritz Tyler, Ray York, Charles Freeman, Myron Scarborough, Doris Lord, and Robert and Ruth Lord. When the organization disbanded in 1944, a small amount of money was left in its treasury. Recently in 1974, this money plus interest was turned over to the Telstar Music Department and a new snare drum was purchased for use there.

Another very popular musical group was Lord's Orchestra. Beginning in 1923, under the direction of Doris and Lawrence Lord, they not only played for public dances at halls and pavilions for miles around, but gave generously of their services for amateur presentations whenever called upon. Some of the members of this orchestra were Earle Eldredge, Angelo Onofrio and Clayton Bane, as well as Eddie Cross, Ivan Proctor, Glen Emery, J. Everett Howe, Charles Heino, Jimmy Farrington of Hartford, Maine, Dwight Lord, and John Nowlin, vocalist.

During the 1940's Gould Academy students were extremely fortunate to have Miss Ann Griggs as their music teacher. The concerts given by her chorus and instrumental groups



**BETHEL BLUEBIRDS** — (Left to right) Rosalind Rowe Chapman, Henry Hastings, Richard Young, Erma Young, director, Elizabeth Lyon Bane, Dana Brooks, Sidney Howe.

were truly professional. Several of her vocal students became accomplished soloists. At that time it was an honor to be a member of the William Rogers Chapman Club. Professor Chapman during the first part of this century was certainly the prominent musical figure on the Bethel scene. His association with the Maine Music Festival is well-known. However, he also brought to Bethel many highly talented musicians from New York and European music circles, who gave concerts in Odeon Hall, and recitals at the Chapman home.

Two local vocalists who often sang at weddings, recitals and other special occasions were Mildred Hapgood Lyon and Margaret Carter Bean.

The major musical events today in Bethel are centered in the local schools. Telstar's marching band performs at football games, and parades in Bethel and area towns. Glenn

Bangs is the director of the band and also gives individual instruction. Retiring this year from service in S. A. D. 44 is Mrs. Edith Eypner who has been responsible for many enjoyable musical evenings in recent years. There is an active Music Boosters Club in the community which raises funds for the support of the district's musical activities. In addition, several citizens are members of the Community Concert group in Rumford which brings a variety of performers to the area.

Music has always been an important part of the Bethel scene, and people of the community can be especially grateful for the opportunities offered the young people in that field.



**LORD'S ORCHESTRA, 1947, at Songo Lake Pavilion** — Front row, J. Everett Howe, Lawrence Lord. Back row, Ivan Proctor, Glenn Emery, and Doris Lord.

### MINES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST OF THE BETHEL AREA

The main interest in mining in the Bethel area has been those which form in granitic pegmatites. A classic example of these are the beryl crystals which were found in the Bumpus Mine, Albany. Mined for feldspar in 1928-1929, two crystals of beryl were discovered which measured approximately 43 inches in diameter and were eighteen feet long. Beryl of five to eight feet long and eighteen inches in diameter are a common occurrence. A large concentration of rose quartz has made this a must for mineral collectors.

The Wheeler Mine, located in West Bethel, was mined for mica. Some of the finest mica ever found in North America was taken from this location. A few garnets of gem quality were found and one large chrysoberyl crystal.

The General Electric Mine in Albany was opened for quartz to be used in the manufacture of a telescope lens for use in the observation of the solar system. Its use was unsuccessful, however, as tiny cracks would appear during the cooling process.

The Dutton, or Neville Mine, in Newry, is the most widely known in the northeast. Operated in 1905 for gem tourmaline, it was reopened for pollicite and approximately five hundred thousand dollars in pollicite was taken from this small opening. Beryllonite, in massive form and some crystals were found, the second world occurrence. More than seventy-five minerals have been identified, including many of the rare phosphates. In 1967 a pocket of blue green gem tourmaline was found. In 1971 a series of pockets were opened up and found to contain one of the largest deposits of gem tourmaline ever found in North America.

Just to the east of the Neville Tourmaline Mine is the Whitehall, or Twin Tunnell Mine.

This was the first world location to have rose quartz crystals positively identified. Purple apatite, forming solid coatings on large specimens and fine ambygonite crystals were found here.

The Kimball Mine in Albany, near Songo Pond, produced some fine blue beryl, gem material.

The Pingree Prospect, Albany, White Mt. National Forest, mined for mica, yielded some bertrandite crystals and chatoyant gem beryl.

The Cotton Prospect, on land now owned by Bruce Bailey, Bethel, has produced a very few amethyst groups. The pegmatite extends for nearly a mile up the mountain fairly wide in spots and narrowing down to what could be a dike connecting one out-cropping to another. Quartz crystals show in the out-croppings at both ends, starting approximately five hundred yards from the Bailey home and at the top of the ridge connecting near the peak of Farwell Mountain. Very little work has ever been done at this location, but it looks very promising.

### LOGGING — THEN AND NOW

Continued from Page Eleven

insurance, benefits, and job security, very few of whom would think that kicking windows out of bars, or better yet, throwing someone through one, was all in a night's fun.

Yes, he is gone, claimed by civilization, and robbed of his individuality and color by progress, but if there was ever an adventurer or pioneer, or a man whom this country could not have done without, truly the American lumberjack was one.

### HEMLOCK ISLAND BRIDGE

In 1841, enterprising local residents of East Bethel and Locke Mills, subscribed funds to construct a bridge across the Androscoggin at Hemlock Island between Middle Intervale and East Bethel. This was strongly opposed by residents of Bethel who intended to protect their bridge at Barker's Ferry, built in 1838, from competition. While this controversy may seem minor today, in the mid-nineteenth century, it assumed major proportions. It involved not merely convenience in transportation, but competition between Bethel Hill and Middle Intervale for the development of their business districts. The matter was abruptly settled in its first year, when the poorly designed Hemlock Island Bridge was swept from its piers in an ice jam, coming to rest further down-river. The unlucky residents of East Bethel and Locke Mills, who had funded the project, were left with their financial obligations, but no bridge.

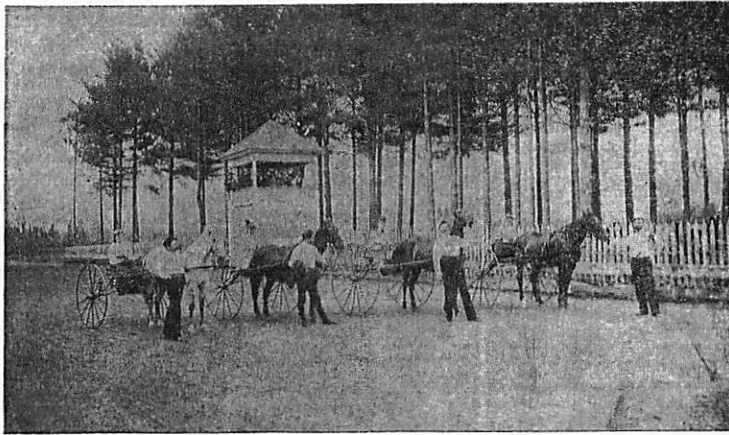
### Did You Know:

That the first road to Norway was built in 1812-13 over Paradise and the other "bad" hills?

That the 1781 raid on Bethel netted the Indians \$16, several bottles of rum, and lasting fame in Bethel lore?

That the judges stand from the Bethel fairgrounds was moved to Paradise Hill to serve as an observation post during World War II?





### OLD SETTLERS Continued from Page Ten

buy me another." No sound Biblical names for their children either, no Ezras or Sarahs, rather they gave them romantic ones. One family had Clarence DeMott, Ellis DeMiner, Ora DeWitt, Asa Cuvier, Newell Bannister, Victoria Belle, Rose Jenella. Maybe names do affect personality. The girls were famous for their singing voices, the men for their physical prowess. To these families from time to time came a city relative in a far finer turnout than any local soul possessed; a dashing carriage, a spanking team, a driver in a plumed hat. They departed as quickly as they came, sometimes bearing away a child to be reared in a more conventional style.

Bethel was fortunate in having a blend of families with strong tradition, families who worked to establish such, families who were ardent individualists. The life style of all was basically the same. Everyone owned land and had fine buildings. It is unfortunate that so few of the houses remain. Family solidarity was a virtue. Some had songs, some had prayers, but the entire clan ate their meals around one table together and the head of the household served the meal. Hospitality was the social custom. One shared what he had, no matter how little or how much, with dignity and grace. One family always served unexpected guests hot biscuits and molasses.

You might like to test your knowledge of these early days by identifying the family with the anecdote.

1. What family was descended from the first postmaster-general of the United States?
2. What family, for whom a mountain was named, showed their ingenuity by using a dog to power the milk separator?
3. What family had the sole authentic Pilgrim portrait, painted in London in 1651?
4. What family had the first nursing home in town?
5. What family produced the first woman Secretary of Labor?
6. What family produced an early "environmentalist" that in deeding his land he reserved the apple trees for himself and his survivors to be sure that they would have proper care?
7. What family gave each son as he graduated from college, a horse, a bridle, a saddle, a pair of silver plated spurs, and sent him off to the city to make his fortune?
8. What family started from a man, who, before the Revolution, was impressed into British service, found two helpers, seized the ship, and forced the captain to pilot it into Boston Harbor?
9. What family had a descendant who came home from the War Between the States so impressed with the architecture of New Orleans that he built a copy of one of the houses there?
10. What family created a sensation with wild mustangs imported from the West?

ANSWERS: 1. Osgood; 2. Farwell; 3. Win- slow; 4. Abbott; 5. Bean; 6. Capen; 7. Carter; 8. Swan; 9. Foster; 10. Bartlett.

### Did You Know:

That on April 29, 1865, the Great Fire at Bethel Hill destroyed Lovejoy's Hotel, the Kimball Block, and Mr. Heywood's house, in the area of today's Fire Station?

**AT RIVER SIDE PARK** — The scene was the old Bethel Fairgrounds, near the present Norseman Inn. The occasion was a ladies' horse race to celebrate William Rogers Chapman's birthday. He and Mrs. Chapman are at the extreme right. The other three couples were boarders at the Twitchell house (now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dana Douglass).

### "THOSE NUISANCES"

Before the coming of toilets, bath tubs and sinks to Bethel, there was little concern with sewerage disposal. Privies served their purpose well and the contents that accumulated were returned to the land. If care was taken in their location and proper drainage was maintained, there was little need for change. This was particularly true of the outlying areas but in the village greater regard was mandatory if "nuisances" were not to develop. This remained the uneasy state of things until it was decided that the village because of the population density would be better served by obtaining drinking water from a source outside the town. This resulted in the building of the Chapman Brook reservoir at the end of the last century.

A municipal source of drinking water contributed immeasurably to the safety of one's health. But it also compounded the problems of drainage. Indoor plumbing became increasingly possible with a reliable source of supply but with inadequate sewerage facilities the dangers to well-being were increased. Conditions were so bad that Sanding Brook which winds its way from the swamp at the foot of Paradise Hill across Main St., in the vicinity of the Casco Bank building and eventually into Alder River was reduced to little more than open sewer. Moreover, Gould Academy piped its wastes into Mill Brook. As a result, the two streams in the confines of Bethel village were badly polluted and a ready carrier of disease.

It was these circumstances that the Bethel Board of Health through the 1890's repeatedly asked to be changed. Yet even they were shortsighted in their proposed solution as this passage from the 1897 town report so amply testifies:

We again earnestly call attention to the urgent need of some system of sewerage for the village; the growing number of water closets, bath tubs with sink drains are becoming a menace to the public health. To rid ourselves of infectious diseases, it is very important that all such sources of pollution be removed by proper drainage. Nature rarely provides a more suitable location for easy sewerage. Pipes of small calibre which would carry our sewage into the Androscoggin. This, with our excellent water supply, would enable us to easily put our village in first class sanitary condition.

Not until 1902, however, was the situation somewhat eased by the installation of a municipal system along the entire length of Main Street. But this action did not alleviate the conditions on High Street where the sewage from the Brick School continued to be a source of vile odor and increased the likelihood for disease.

The High Street connection was made the following year and with each successive town meeting the sewage system was extended. By

### RIVER SIDE PARK

by Addie Kendall Mason

Bethel has woken from its slumbers  
It really is on the move.

For years it's been quietly dozing  
But I guess it's got out of the "groove".  
Something has stirred up the people  
And they've started quite a boom,  
And the spunky ones jostle each other  
And call for more elbow room.

The chair factory whistle calls shrilly,  
The corn shop looms up quite near.  
The lockup is quite to the purpose —  
From the band stand good music we hear,  
The waterworks, surely all praise them  
For their sparkling treasure so clear  
That is brought from the distant mountains,  
All the hearts of the people to cheer.

As these projects all worked to perfection,  
Why staid Bethel went on a "lark"  
And to finish up the proceeding  
Has built a fine trotting park.  
Of course it's not done for nothing,  
And someone will rake in the "tin"  
While some will stand back proper distance  
And call it a "howling sin".

But I give my vote for the horses —  
Be they black, red, brown or grey  
Who can take us to "mill or to meeting"  
And not be on the road all day.  
But they must first learn their lessons  
And the rein and the voice to obey,  
For like fire, they are very good servants  
But as masters a cent they don't pay.

Where is River Side Park? someone questions  
Why, just over the bridge from the Hill —  
Down past Mason who lives at the corner  
Round back of the church in Mayville.  
And there you will find some spry trotters  
With no doubt a pacer or two —  
"Redwoods," "Pilots" and "Patchens"  
And royal descendants of "Drew".

"Black Hawks," "Knoves" and "Fear-  
naughts",  
Of course they all have a place.  
But sometimes it's hard telling the winner  
Till the distance flag falls in the race.  
No doubt some of their pedigrees  
Would reach the length of a mile,  
And some whose "getup" is so funny,  
It calls to your face a broad smile.

But then Bethel is really growing —  
Perhaps will yet make its mark.  
So come to the Fair in September  
And hurrah for the River Side Park!

August 3, 1991

### LOST INDUSTRIES

—In South Bethel, Levi Washburn began the practice of stripping birch for bed-filling, in place of straw. The product was shipped to Boston, however, this was a short-lived industry due to the manufacture of excelsior.

—Potash manufacture was common in the early years of the town. The raw material required, ash of hardwood burning, was in abundance. The potash was shipped to Portland, returning to rural areas in the form of saleratus. Apparently, "some men would cut and burn wood in the forest merely for the ash product, but this was not a profitable business, and only the shiftless and thrifless engaged in it."

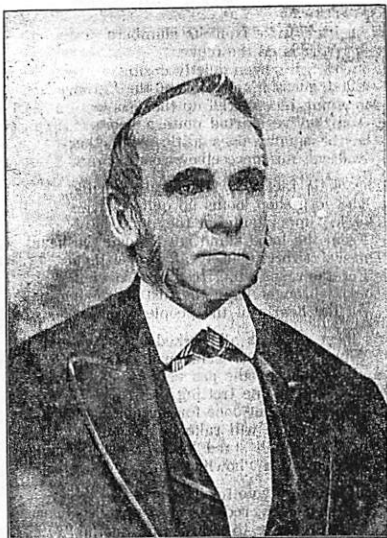
—The making of shaved shingles from pine provided winter employment in the days before sawed shingles, and the products of this industry were shipped to Portland.

—Starch was a product of early Bethel. Potatoes were converted to starch at a factory on Mill Hill.

the outbreak of the first World War every street in the village possessed underground sewers which flowed into the Androscoggin. This remained largely the state of things except for periodic repairs and maintenance until 1972 when the national awareness of environmental dangers brought an end to dumping wastes in the river.

The facility now situated near Alder River serves the nearly 400 families and businesses of Bethel village. It was built at a cost of over \$600,000 and handles some 160,000 gallons of sewerage per day, rendering it ecologically harmless before it reaches the river.

Bethel has indeed come a long way since the days of "those nuisances."



Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True

#### DR. TRUE AND GOULD ACADEMY

At the request of the trustees of Gould Academy, Mr. Francis Parkman is preparing an account of its history from its founding in 1836 to the present. The following excerpts from his first draft of the chapter on Dr. True's administration are presented with the permission of the committee of the trustees which has charge of the preparation of the history. Mr. Parkman asks to have it noted that anyone working on the history of the academy is bound to lean heavily as he has done on the previous research and writings of Miss Eva Bean.

The fortunes of the academy were in a decline in the 1840s after the departure of the able principal, Moses Soule. The catalogue of Bethel Academy (soon to be renamed Gould's) in 1841-42, Soule's last year, listed the names of 138 students, 80 "young gentlemen" and 58 "young ladies", but after Soule there was another succession of one-year principals—young men just out of college; enrollments fell off, there were no winter or summer sessions, and the trustees met only once between 1843 and 1850. "But the executive committee was still functioning . . . and when the academy failed to open for the fall term of 1847, something clearly had to be done.

What was done was to follow the sound precept which says that if you want to get an institution out of trouble, get an experienced man. There was an experienced man who was already well and favorably known in Bethel, one Nathaniel Tuckerman True, and he took charge of the academy in the spring of 1848 and made a going concern out of it for thirteen years.

Not only did Dr. True save the academy from following the fate of many other academies and disappearing from the scene, but one of his daughters, as will be seen later, played an important part in its development in the 20th century."

Since 1835 when True had so successfully helped start the Bethel High School, he had taught school at Falmouth and Pownal and in 1847 had for ten years been the Principal of Monmouth Academy. He had also earned an M. D. degree at the Maine Medical School. He had a breadth of intellectual capacity combined with the instincts of a teacher—"to impart knowledge, to help young people to develop in accordance with the individual potential, and to guide them in moral character and self-discipline. Accordingly, after he had tried the practice of medicine for two years in Durham, Maine, not far from his home town, he must have decided against medicine as a career, and in favor of teaching. He was ready for the invitation from Bethel.

And it seemed that Bethel, and the surrounding communities, were ready for him, for with his arrival on the scene the academy entered a period of prosperity and popular support which were not to be matched for many years. In his second year the aggregate

enrollment (adding the attendance figures for the four sessions) reached 245, and for the seven years from 1853 to 1859 was always well over 200, in three of those years over 300. If we look at the enrollment figures in terms of the number of individuals registered (some for three or four terms, some for only one or two) we find that they climbed from a low of 142 in 1850, to a high of 228 in 1857.

"Winter and summer sessions had become a thing of the past in the 1840's. The free common schools were open in those seasons, and, as a state school superintendent pointed out, the number who would pay tuition rather than attend the free schools was not enough to pay the teacher. In the spring and fall, on the other hand, when the common schools were closed, the big boys and girls who wanted to learn would fill up the academy. Dr. True, however, consistently kept Gould's Academy open for all four terms, and the number attending in the winter averaged 30, and in the summer nearly 40.

By contrast to most of his predecessors Dr. True was a professional and had no intention of moving on after a year. It is interesting to examine his catalogues—there were at least nine in the thirteen years of his administration—and to see the way the professional went about the dual task of giving information and attracting students. The first published at the end of three terms in 1849, is the most complete and sets forth a four-fold set of goals, to appeal to four different potential constituencies: Emphasis on Classical Learning, a "Systematic and Elevated course of Female Education," the Education of Teachers for the Common Schools, and the Preparation of Young Men for the Counting Room. This last, for a school in the middle of a heavily agricultural community, is surprising until one reflects that there was plenty of on-the-job training for boys destined to be farmers, and they were not so likely to pursue education much beyond the bare essentials.

There was a strong endorsement of the study of the classics as being "of the highest importance in the education of both sexes," with the reasons carefully set forth. The subjects taught and the text books used in each of the three courses (Classics, Common English and High English) were laid out. The fare in the Classics Department was solidly based on reading and composition in the Greek and Latin authors. "Common English" included reading, geography, arithmetic, history, parsing, bookkeeping and penmanship. In the Higher English department, curiously enough, there was no mention of English literature or history, but the course pretended to cover a great deal of ground, so much so as to suggest superficiality. In this field were listed: under Natural Sciences, Chemistry, Astronomy, Geology, Geography, Botany, Physiology and Mineralogy; under Mental and Moral Sciences, Rhetoric, Philosophy and Moral Science; and under Mathematics, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Surveying and Navigation, Analytic Geometry, and Mechanics.

No doubt the pupils in the Higher English department went through this imposing list in hop, skip and jump style, but there was perhaps some selection according to the interests of the students and the capacities of the teacher. No less than four modern languages were offered in a separate section of the catalogue.

The catalogue announced that a special class for teachers would be formed in spring and fall terms for those intending to teach in the summer and winter common schools, respectively, to fit teachers for the duties of the school room. Students in these classes would have access "to the most valuable works on teaching which have been published in this country."

In this catalogue, too, as in each of the succeeding ones put out by Dr. True, there was special mention of the Cabinet of minerals, specimens to illustrate Crystallography, a collection of fossils, and a "well-arranged Cabinet of Conchology." And finally, Dr. True started in this catalogue the practice which he invariably followed in later editions, of making special reference to the attractions of Bethel. This time, after a statement that the surrounding country is "exceedingly romantic," he added, "few villages can be found so well calculated to preserve the morals of students." In 1850, when the railroad had all but reached Bethel, the school is "but a few rods from the Depot of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Rail Road." In another later catalogue, Bethel was celebrated for various virtues, and

#### LIBERTY EMERY HOLDEN

Continued from Page Nine

Encouraged by his first mining venture, Liberty Holden went to Utah in the early seventies. With his own capital and some from his friends' money he bought the "Old Telegraph" mine. For months there was no success. Then he struck rich galena ore. He realized enough on that one strike to pay off his debts and leave a large margin of profit.

Later he became the largest stockholder in the "Old Jordan and South Galena" mine which, like the "Telegraph" was also in Bingham Canyon. After he sold his holdings there it became one of the world's most famous copper mines, "The Utah Copper".

In 1886 he bought the newspaper "The Cleveland Plain Dealer." It was a mouthpiece for the Democratic party located in the midst of a Republican area.

Liberty Holden was always interested in national and civic affairs. He served on the Board of the Cleveland Art School and helped design the building. He was a Trustee for the Western Reserve University and helped lay out the Cleveland public parks system. Then he was a Commissioner from Ohio to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 and to St. Louis.

He bought a large amount of acreage in Cleveland for the farm he always wanted. It was called "Good Hold". During his peak years he belonged to an age when men of vision and enterprise believed in themselves, in their class, their country's institutions, their own rights and missions.

His name has been perpetuated in his native State of Maine by Holden Hall, an important part of the Gould Academy complex in Bethel.

then: "for the moral and intelligent character of its population, it will compare favorably with any other situation in New England." Also, it has pure air and water and is free "from the damp easterly winds of the seacoast."

Later catalogues followed much the same pattern—always including emphasis on the collections in the Cabinet and on science teaching (in 1854, "It is believed that the advantages for instruction in practical Chemistry are not excelled in the State.") and on courses for teachers. In 1859, Dr. True's last catalogue had taken advantage of the opportunity and "greater prominence will be given to this department of the school."

The Classics department flourished in these days, from a quarter to a third of the enrollment being listed as students of the classics. Many came from a distance to study at Gould's in one or another of the courses offered; a summary in the 1857 catalogue gave these figures for the ten-year period since Dr. True came: from York County, 19; from Cumberland County (also in the southern part of the state), 119; from Portland, 44; from other states, 45; from foreign countries, 10. The number who have entered college "fitting in part or wholly here," was given as 55. The largest number during any single term was 149, in the spring term of that year, 1857.

Probably in the summer and winter terms the principal did all or most of the teaching, but in fall and spring, where there were almost always more than 100 students on hand, he had to have help. Since he had to pay his assistants as well as himself out of tuition receipts, it is not surprising that he skimmed a bit by using older students to teach the elementary subjects; the names of his assistants, as listed in the catalogue, often enough appeared also in the list of students. After two or three years of this the trustees voted to allow the principal \$100 in addition to the tuition fees, provided that he kept the school open all four terms and employed "a competent female assistant" for the spring and fall terms. Thereafter for several years the catalogues listed an associate principal, usually a lady. But it wasn't easy to find such teachers: Dr. True wrote to the board late in 1854 that in correspondence with the principal female seminaries in New England he found that he could not get a teacher with the necessary qualifications for less than \$300 or \$400 a year, "Which was out of the question at our low tuition and method of collecting."

Dr. True's salary as fixed by the trustees never rose above \$100 a year, though they twice raised the tuition fees which were his

Continued on Page Twenty



## WALKING TOUR OF BETHEL HILL

Continued from Page Eight

- \*\* The Odd Fellows Hall, built in the 1890's, is now rented by the Gospel Center. Behind it the Masonic Lodge occupies the building erected by the Christian Science Society in 1924.
- \*\* The Naimen Block, built in 1922, houses the Post Office, Bethel Spa, and dentist's office. This area of town has become the business center of the village in recent years, in earlier years the Block contained three stores, and four apartments.
- \*\* The Methodist Church was built in 1893, replacing an older building which was destroyed by a cyclone in 1891.
- \*\* The Thunderbird Motel Dormitory has served various functions in town. It was built as a movie theater in 1940, was converted to a motel before being acquired by Gould Academy in 1967. It has been a faculty and student residence since then.
- \*\* The Cole Block was built in 1891. It was once the location of Bethel's two banks, as well as the town offices. Odeon Hall on the second floor has served as a movie theater and was the location of town meetings, socials, Gould graduations, church services, and other gatherings. The printing operations of the "Bethel Citizen" occupy the rear of the block.
- \*\* The Bethel Savings Bank's new building, 1974, occupies the site which was the former location of a store, the Post Office in the early 1940's, and most recently a laundromat.
- \*\* The Wiley Block has been the location of a drug store under different ownership for many years, and formerly was the location of the Post Office as well.
- \*\* The Window Box building is the second commercial building on the site. Modern apartments occupy the second floor, and the gift and fabric shops, the former grocery store.
- \*\* The unique double building on the eastern corner of the Main, Church, Broad Street intersection, was built in the mid 1800's. The Wooden structure has been a store, lawyer's home and office, and the brick part, a shop, an artist's studio, a dance theater, and now a real estate office.

Turn left on Broad Street, and return to the Moses Mason House

- \*\* The Bethel Library building is a combination of two structures, the ell being formed out of a law library, and the present front section built in the 1930's.

That completes the walking tour of the village. There are many other streets and wooded areas to be explored by those who want a bit of exercise as well as a glimpse of buildings and relics of older times. Stop in at the Moses Mason House Museum for information on places to go and things to see.

## CHRISTIAN NAMES IN THE 19th CENTURY

Expectant parents might consider some of the following names which were borne by 19th century Bethel children:

Zerviah, Mehitabel, Eliphalet, Salome, Tristram, Sherebiah, Bathsheba, Abiather, Deidamia, Satina, Philaphrene, Anstress, Amazina, Parazina, Virtue, Reliance, Relief, Eppelena, Azuba, Cinderilla, Orange, Freeborn, Apphia, Silence, Al, Submit, Nicy, Thankful, Maroah, Uzziel, Ozro, Ransom, Electa, Philanthus, Desire.

The Dr. John Grover family deserves special attention for their intriguing choice of names. The young Grovers were named Abernethy, Tallyrand, Lafayette, Philophrene, and Cuvier. Whether inspired by their unusual names or not, these children went on to become some of Bethel's highest achievers; a general, a college professor, a governor, and representative.

## Did You Know:

That dial phones came to Bethel in 1957?  
That rooster weathervanes are old Puritan symbols of repentance?

That Abner's Pavilion on Songo Pond was the site of dances from 1937 to the 1960's.

That the Anasagunticook House was a hotel in Northwest Bethel, located there because of mineral springs?

That the Frank Bartlett Shop at the foot of Mill Hill had been in constant use for over 150 years when it was razed in the 1960's?

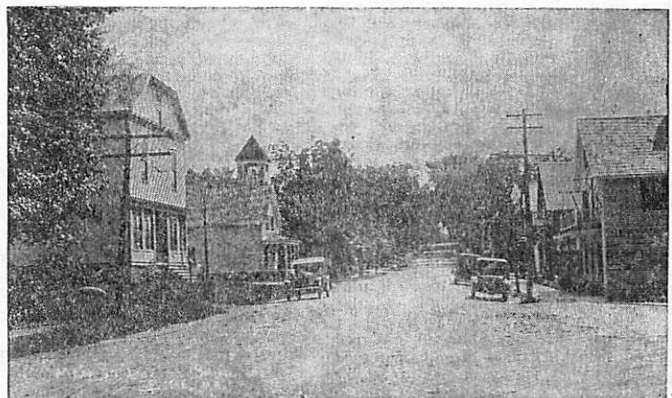


**LITTLE CHANGE IN 65 YEARS** — In the above photo the Cole Block is shown as it appeared in 1908 or '09. On the left are the business establishments of E. E. Burnham, Millinery and Fancy Goods; and L. C. Hall, Art Goods and Stationery. On the right is the Bethel Savings Bank. The "Bethel News" printing plant occupied the rear of the ground floor, and the law offices of Herrick and Park were located in back of the Savings Bank.

In the picture below is shown the building as it appears today. The Bethel Town Office is on the ground floor left, moving from quar-

ters over the Savings Bank in 1968. Casco Bank and Trust Company used the present Town Office for over 20 years prior to the erection of their building at the junction of Main and High Streets. The Bethel Savings Bank (right) will soon be moving to their new building next door. No use has been made of the upper floors of the structure since the winter of 1968-69.

About the only visual change has been the relocation of the entrance to the Bank's quarters and the installation of a concrete platform along the front of the building in place of the wooden walk of 65 years ago.



## TELSTAR REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Continued from Page Seven

Although Telstar opened its doors to students on September 19, several areas of the building were not yet completed. For instance, it wasn't until November 5 that Superintendent Ralph Ryder and his staff were able to move into their offices. It was also November before the gymnasium was ready for use. However, steady progress toward completion was made, and the formal dedication was held on June 8, 1969. The following was quoted from a write-up about that event in the June 10, 1969 issue of the "Lewiston Daily Sun":

"The dedication and open house for Telstar Regional High School was held Sunday. The school is named after Bell System's Telstar communication satellite in Andover, a history-making satellite that in 1962 relayed the first telephone and television picture between Andover, Maine and Europe. The high school is located in Bethel approximately 20 miles from Andover ground station which is now part of a global commercial satellite system.

"An actual-size model of the Telstar satellite was presented to the high school by Tracey L. Gray, division plant manager, American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Gray, the keynote speaker, also presented a bronze plaque which notes the historical significance of the Telstar project.

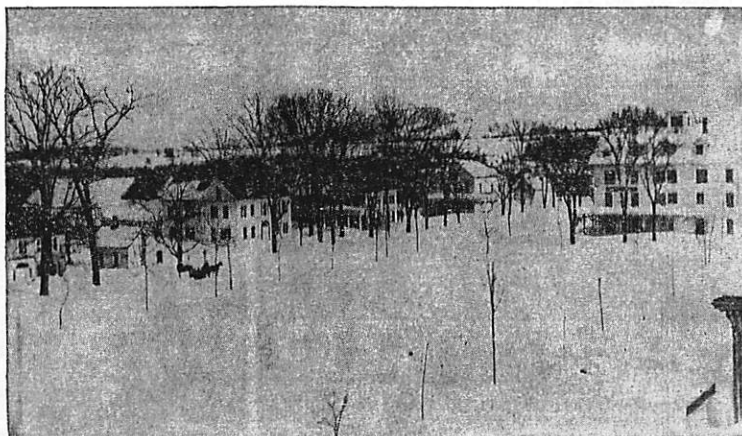
"The Telstar band, directed by Glenn Bangs, played several selections. 'In Wood Embowered' by Brahms was sung by the school chorus directed by Mrs. Elizabeth Tebbets, and accompanied on duo pianos by Mrs. Margaret Vaughan and Miss Martha Keniston.

"Rev. Carl Kingsbury, Rumford Center, delivered the invocation and Bradley Fiske, president of Telstar Student Council, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Superintendent Ralph K. Ryder, introduced platform guests: Philip Wadsworth, architect; Richard Melville, chairman of board of directors of S. A. D. 44; Milton Mills, chairman of the building committee; Principal of Telstar Regional High School, C. Richard Vaughan; Mr. Kingsbury; Bradley Fiske; Dexter Stowell, former chairman of board of directors; Lester Bickford, former chairman of the building committee; Dr. Sidney Davidson, William Bingham, Second, Betterment Fund; Ray Cook, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Instruction, Maine State Dept. of Education; Tracey Gray, keynote speaker, Division Plant Manager A. T. & T. Company; and Rev. Clifford Laws.

"A presentation of the keys was made by Architect Philip Wadsworth to Richard Melville, chairman, board of directors; Milton Mills, chairman, building committee; and Principal C. Richard Vaughan.

"Superintendent Ryder read a congratulatory message from Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis. Congratulatory speeches were made by Dr. Sidney Davidson and Ray Cook. Rev. Clifford Laws gave the benediction."

Telstar has been most fortunate to benefit from the generosity of several corporations and individuals, whose gifts have added immeasurably to various programs of the school. Besides a monetary gift from the Bingham Fund, there have been many other donations: Ekco Housewares Company contributed silverware and cooking equipment to the home economics department and the cafeteria. P. H. Chadbourne and Company furnished 54% of the cost of the 500 seats in the auditorium which were only partially paid for through state subsidy. American Telephone and Telegraph Company donated \$8,000 in scientific equipment. The Ford Motor Company, through Ripley and Fletcher of South Paris, gave the industrial arts department a 200 cu. in. 6-cylinder engine and teaching aids. In addition, mineral collections from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Swan and the Oxford County Mineral and Gem Association have been gifts to the science department, and many individuals, too numerous to list by name, have generously donated books to the library. Also both the Telstar Athletic Boosters and the Music Boosters have given much assistance to the school. With the help of such friends, the dedication of faculty and staff members, the cooperation and enthusiasm of the student body, Telstar Regional High School has gotten off to a good start and should continue to gain increased recognition within education circles in the state.



## BETHEL THEN AND NOW

The first known inhabitants of the Androscoggin River Valley, where the town of Bethel is now situated, were Indians, it being the home of the Anasagunticooks and a tribal division of the Rockomekas, a powerful tribe, who controlled the entire river valley from its source in Umbagog Lake to Merrymeeting Bay. Fish and game were plentiful. Fertile lowlands for cultivation, heavily wooded banks, and valleys and the river as a natural highway for canoe travel, made the Androscoggin River valley ideal for the location of Indian settlements. So common were the Indians during the first settlement of the town that a fleet of canoes on the river was a common sight. There were hundreds of Indians living and travelling in the Valley of the Big River.

There was an Indian village on the banks of the Androscoggin about two miles north of the now Bethel village. The finding of twenty cellars for the storage of corn and the discovery of numerous gun barrels, kettles, poles and other implements indicated that they hurriedly left the settlement. Indians in the Bethel area eventually moved north to join their kinsfolk in Canada.

No mention of the Indians in this area can be complete without reference to the Indian woman, Mollockett who lived in Bethel as a friend and herb doctor to the white settlers. She died August 2, 1816, and was buried in Andover. Metalluck was probably the last of the Anasagunticooks. He lived in the northern Portion of the Androscoggin Valley as late as 1832. Governor Lincoln and Dr. Moses Mason were his friends and visited him on the Magalloway River.

Between 1630-1642, many settlers arrived from England in Massachusetts Bay Colony. Early ancestors of the first settlers of Bethel came to America during that period. The Indians then living here didn't want the white people to settle above Rumford Falls, and the French in Canada didn't want the English moving in. The French began making furious attacks on settlements in New Hampshire and Maine, and the colonists were going to attack Quebec. Many of the Massachusetts settlers, left their homes and enlisted. Several years after the French and Indian trouble, Josiah Richardson petitioned the General Assembly for the land promised the volunteers for their military service. In 1768 he received court action and the grant of land was called Sudbury Canada because the volunteers enlisted from Sudbury, Mass., and Canada was added to show in what campaign they fought. These grants to the veterans or to their heirs were the first step toward setting the town of Bethel.

Nathaniel Segar was here in 1774, but enlisted in the Revolutionary War and returned in 1779. Captain Eleazar Twitchell built a mill and lived at the foot of Mill Hill. Lt. Jonathan Clark lived on what is now Lover's Lane, and Benjamin Clark across the present railroad tracks above the village. John Grover settled in West Bethel. Peter Austin had a cabin near the bridge, and Russells and Swans were near Alder River, Benjamin Russell in Middle Intervale. David Marshall was near the river in Middle Intervale (now Eypper's) and John York dwelt in East Bethel (Trask house).

In 1781 the town contained fourteen families. It was incorporated as a town on June

10, 1796. Reverend Eliphaz Chapman suggested the name Bethel, "House of God".

Times have changed. The pioneer's day began long before sunrise. He ate his breakfast by the light of the open fire or candles so to be ready to go to work at daylight. The tasks on the farms in those days consumed more time than they would today. Even a trip to town is somewhat of a holiday in modern times, while in olden times it might mean an ox-cart trip to Portland, 80-100 miles distant. Quite different from automobile and air travel today.

They cut and fitted their firewood. We buy gas, oil and electricity. They raised sheep, sheared them, spun the wool, wove the cloth and made their garments. We purchase ours at Sears, Mammoth Mart, Rolfe's, Sunri, or Brown's. They saved their tallow and dipped their candles. We snap a switch and are annoyed when the bulb burns out. They obtained their food from the soil and the forest. We get ours at the supermarket from all corners of the world. They welcomed the traveler at their door because he broke the monotony and bore "news" that was months old. Today we hardly know the people next door, but are aware of the latest news story practically the moment it happens any number of miles away.

They made their own music, travelling miles to gather around a hearth, for an evening's sing. We are upset if the elements interfere with our radio and television reception for a few minutes. When the evening meal was finished the pioneers did something besides toast their feet on the hearth. The family circle was seldom idle. The women were busy spinning, weaving, sewing, knitting, candle dipping, soap mixing, while the men fashioned shoes, ax-handles, ox yokes, brooms, baskets, wooden bowls, spoons and such. It is interesting that it is the results of such common tasks that are so desirable as antiques today.

They made their own music, travelling miles to gather around a hearth, for an evening's sing. We are upset if the elements interfere with our radio and television reception for a few minutes. When the evening meal was finished the pioneers did something besides toast their feet on the hearth. The family circle was seldom idle. The women were busy spinning, weaving, sewing, knitting, candle dipping, soap mixing, while the men fashioned shoes, ax-handles, ox yokes, brooms, baskets, wooden bowls, spoons and such. It is interesting that it is the results of such common tasks that are so desirable as antiques today.

They made their own music, travelling miles to gather around a hearth, for an evening's sing. We are upset if the elements interfere with our radio and television reception for a few minutes. When the evening meal was finished the pioneers did something besides toast their feet on the hearth. The family circle was seldom idle. The women were busy spinning, weaving, sewing, knitting, candle dipping, soap mixing, while the men fashioned shoes, ax-handles, ox yokes, brooms, baskets, wooden bowls, spoons and such. It is interesting that it is the results of such common tasks that are so desirable as antiques today.

They made their own music, travelling miles to gather around a hearth, for an evening's sing. We are upset if the elements interfere with our radio and television reception for a few minutes. When the evening meal was finished the pioneers did something besides toast their feet on the hearth. The family circle was seldom idle. The women were busy spinning, weaving, sewing, knitting, candle dipping, soap mixing, while the men fashioned shoes, ax-handles, ox yokes, brooms, baskets, wooden bowls, spoons and such. It is interesting that it is the results of such common tasks that are so desirable as antiques today.

## Did You Know:

That in 1909 electric lighting came to the town of Bethel?

That camp meetings were held in Middle Intervale in the 1850's?

That a good portion of the land on Main Street was an alder swamp in 1835?

That "godly conversation" was one requirement for Methodist church membership in 1817?

That in 1810 a committee was appointed to inspect the 4th of July oration before it was delivered in public?

That in 1791 there was an unusual number of wild pigeons at Bethel Hill, the slaughter of which by the settlers, convinced the surviving pigeons to abandon Bethel Hill as a nesting place?

That Mill Hill was originally Elm Street, Elm Street from High Street to Main Street, was once called Brighton Avenue, and Chapman Street was formerly known as Dutton Street?



## SKIING COMES TO BETHEL AREA

Skiing and related commercial ventures have become a vital part of the life of the Bethel area. This is a relatively recent development in the town's history.

In 1958, the Bethel Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to study the possible ways of improving Bethel's winter economy; resulting in the organization of the Bethel Area Development Corporation. This committee studied many possibilities, and finally, on April 28, 1958, the Sunday River Skiway Corporation was formed. The selected site for the ski area was Barker Mountain (sometimes called Bald Mountain) in the town of Newry, Maine. Barker Mountain has an elevation of 2,582 feet and offered a variety of slopes for the novice to the expert skier.

Sixteen residents of the Bethel area organized Sunday River Ski Area and were elected to the Board of Directors at its first meeting. There were as follows: Addison C. Saunders, President; Murray W. Thurston, Vice-President; Henry Hastings, Clerk; Wilbur R. Myers, Treasurer; Kimball Ames, Avery Angvine, Paul Bodwell, Guy Butler, Howard Cole, Stanley E. Davis, Paul Kailey, Milton Mills, Herbert Morton Jr., Vance Richardson, Dr. John Trinward, Edmond J. Vachon.

During the summer and fall of 1959, a major part of the proposed development was completed by the hard work of Clarence "Johnnie" Rolfe and his crew. For the 1959-1960 winter season, Sunday River was ready for business, with a 300 car parking area, 3,200 foot T-bar, and an 800 foot Rope Tow and the main Lodge, ski shop and cafeteria. In 1961 another T-bar was installed so that skiing could be enjoyed from the top of Barker Mountain to the base lodge! In 1963, a third T-bar was installed. This established a novice area, known as the "Mixing Bowl".

Many improvements have been made over the years. In 1970, snowmaking facilities were installed on the Mixing Bowl and have since been greatly expanded. This enabled skiers to start their favorite winter sport on Thanksgiving Day, regardless of the natural snow fall, and enjoy excellent skiing through Easter.

In 1971, the mile long chairlift was installed. This extends from the lodge to the top of the mountain and opened the entire mountain to all skiers with the addition of a 3 1/2 mile long novice trail from the top of the mountain.

In 1972, Sherburne Corporation of Killington, Vt., entered into the development of Sunday River by purchasing the controlling interests. In that year, the enlarging and refurbishing of the main lodge was accomplished.

Since the early 1960's, Viking Village has developed to full capacity. This is a group of attractive chalets owned by individual skiers. The first chalet, "The Golden Ski" was built by Walter Cherry of Bethel, and is presently owned by Henry Fuller of South Portland, Maine.

Two yearly races at Sunday River have become well known in the Northeast. The Mel Jodrey Race and the Meridith Langley Race, are qualified Eastern races.

The present plans for the 1974-75 season will be the increased snow-making facilities to the top of Barker Mountain. With this addition, skiing will be available to everyone six months of the year. Also, for the first time, the chairlift is running during the summer



Bethel Inn under construction in October of 1912. The Inn first opened its doors in July 1913.

months so that the non-skier can ride up the mountain, enjoy the spectacular view and then either walk down, enjoying the wonders of nature on his way, or descend on the chair enjoying the panoramic view of distant mountains.

Another type of skiing came to Bethel, in 1971 when the Sunday River Ski Touring Center got its start. Paul Kailey began renting touring equipment from his Sunri Ski Shop. A trail was located from the Ski Area to Sunday River Inn.

The next year 1972-73, Andy Wight, became "Nordic coordinator" for Sunri Ski Shops and rental equipment was moved to Sunday River Inn. Instruction was provided on trails around the Inn and several successful touring clinics were held to introduce the sport of ski touring to the area.

This past winter, Sunday River Ski Touring Center was officially established at Sunday River Inn. David Coleman, a certified ski touring instructor from Springfield, Vt., was hired to operate the Center as a retail outlet for ski touring equipment and a base for providing instruction, trails, and guided tours. During the winter more trails were cleared and marked. The Center now maintains approximately 25 miles of trails, most of which follow old logging roads and are located on terrain which is considered ideal for novice and intermediate ski tourists. Touring Center personnel also led tours for groups of varying ability to points in the Sunday River valley.

The Sunday River Langlauf, a mass-start ski touring fun race is held at the Touring Center each year. It is open to all ages with classes based on age and ability. Prizes are awarded to first, middle and last finishers.

Mt. Abram, in nearby Locke Mills, was started in 1960 by the Cross Brothers, Stuart, Donald and Norton. The original lift was a T-Bar and since then two T-Bars and a chairlift have been added.

There's a ski shop at the mountain, and a ski school. The lodge has been recently enlarged and a cocktail lounge will open next season, if approved by the town.

The Telstar ski team practices and races at Mt. Abram, and has been very successful. The Mt. Abram Ski Club sponsors a Family Day every year.

Among the new additions at Mt. Abram is ski touring, which was started last year.

# PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF SUDBERE CANADA TO THE GENERAL COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS —

The humble petition of the subscribers Inhabitants of Sudbere Canada In the County of Cumberland and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts we renew our petitions Humbly shewing for that whereas your petitioners have Bin much Distressed by the Injourns coming to the Town last summer and killing and robing and leading off our Nabors—which we have never heard of them since We are much distressed In our minds fearing lest we should faull a pray Into the hands of those Savages whose Mercys is cruelty. We must humbly presume on your goodness Being assured by sundry Examples of your compassions that you will think of and pity the Distressed therefore as an object truly Reserving compassion we most humbly implore and petition this honored assembly to consider many difficulties we labor under and grant us a garde of about Forty men to Scout up and down Androscoggin river and Elsewhere; where It shall be thought most necessary. If we cannot have redress We must Leave our land on which we begin to raise our bread corn and our families must suffer for Lack of Bread: It is an Excellent track of Land we are Loth to leave it and that we may have redress is what we pray for therefore this honored assemblys compliance will greatly oblige your humble servants and they as in duty bound will ever pray.

Eleaz Twitchell	John York
Eli Twitchell	Jonathan Clark
David Marshall	Jonathan Bean
Sam Imgalls	Isaac Isley York
Jonathan Bean Jun	Benjamin Russell
Josiah Bean	James Swan
Daniel Bean	Jesse Duston

Sudberre Canada May ye 29, A. D. 1782

Note: The effect of the incursion of the Indians on the town was disastrous. The land became much depressed in value, and settlers were reluctant to come to the area until after news of peace. It is said that one of the original proprietors sold the land on what is now Main St. from Gilman Chapman's lot to the Church St. corner for a mug of flip.

## Did You Know:

That there were 216 oxen in Bethel in 1820?  
That the Portland Pipeline was built in 1941?

That hops were once a cash crop in Bethel?

That salmon once ascended the Androscoggin River?

That in 1889 kerosene street lamps were introduced in Bethel?

That prior to 1815 the nearest post office to Bethel was at Waterford?

That in 1928 flat-bottomed ferries were still in use on the Androscoggin?

That party vote in Bethel in 1844 was Democratic 242, Whig 50, and Free-Soil 36?

That the voters in Bethel voted 40-17 in favor of separation from Massachusetts in 1807?

That in 1891 the roof blew off the Methodist Church?

That in 1807 and 1869 damp snow was blown into balls as big as barrels by a powerful wind in Bethel?

That Peregrine Duston was the first child born in Bethel, in what is now Hanover, and Joseph Twitchell was the first child born at Bethel Hill?



FLOOD WATERS of Androscoggin River, March 19, 1936, just north of the railroad on Rt. 26. On the left is Thurston's mill, burned 1944; and, right, the present Dan Forbes' home.

## DR. TRUE AND GOULD ACADEMY

Continued from Page Sixteen

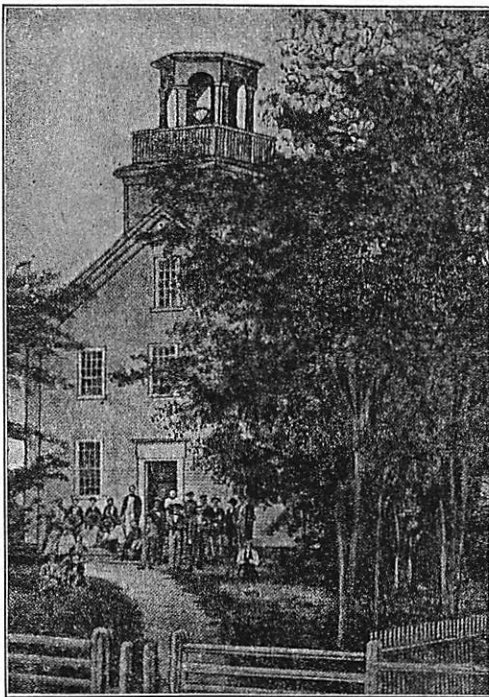
chief source of income—but which he had to collect himself and from which had to come the pay for his assistants . . .

In one of the few communications from True to the board which have reached us, the principal set forth a cogent argument for increasing the fees, quoted figures on the comparable charges in other academies, and said that "under existing circumstances I cannot meet my current expenses, and I must either procure cheaper assistants or you must obtain cheaper principals." With a wife and (at that time) six children to support, his problem was clear.

Something should be said about Dr. True's activities apart from the school. Most of what follows has been gleaned from the columns of the "Bethel Courier", a weekly paper which began publication in 1858 and collapsed in July of 1861 after imploring subscribers to pay their bills. No doubt the onset of the Civil War was chiefly responsible for its troubles. In this paper, in December of 1858 the Bethel Farmer's Club, which he and Jedediah Burbank had started and of which he was treasurer and librarian, is reported to have met at his house. True produced two kinds of grass seed from Utah and specimens of flowering grape from Oregon, both received from representatives of the Grover family in those states. At later meetings he exhibited tools, contributed to discussions of how to improve hay crops, and of what constitutes the best manure, and gave a talk about the composition of soils. The meetings continued into 1860. They were not always serious, and wives were invited. One report stated that "the ladies listened very attentively to each other when they were not talking themselves." Another gave an account of a talk by Gilman Chapman (believed to be the wealthiest man in town) who told a sad story about his inability to make a profit at his store. "So pathetic was he that it came near drawing tears from all present—from excessive laughing."

Early in 1859 True started a series of historical articles about Bethel which appeared almost every week for many months. They covered the early history of Bethel, the Indians of the area, (including Molly Ockett), church history, and biographical sketches of early settlers, current worthies, and the doctors and clergy who had lived and worked in Bethel.

And then, in the early summer of 1859 he took on the editorship of the "Courier", and remained in that position for nearly two years, resigning when he got his walking papers from the academy board. No doubt this was part of his struggle to make both ends meet. Shortly before he took charge as editor, there was a news story, legitimate news for Bethel, headed "May Day Celebration," and it is of particular interest because it is one of the rare glimpses of student life at Gould's in that period. It started off: "The Students of Old Gould's, in accordance with former customs, appeared before us Saturday last in a grand procession." They marched behind a band through the vil-



Gould Academy, 1860

lage and to the Pine Hill Cemetery, where the marshal spoke, and then they disbanded "with permission to spend an hour seeking for flowers and wandering beneath the shady forest." Assembling again they paraded before a stately pine where the Queen of the May was crowned. Then they paraded back to the village and to Dr. True's house where he addressed them briefly. After another adjournment they came together and toasts were proposed "To Our May Queen," "To Our Marshal," "To Our Teacher" ("Truly a True Man"), "To the Musicians," "To the Toastmaster." The account concludes, "after a few speeches, adjourned." Quite a day!

The basic difficulty which led to the separation of Dr. True from Gould seems to have been inability on his part to keep good discipline, and irritation on the part of the trustees over that fact and over the cost of the repairs made necessary when the boys (and girls?) got out of hand. Traces of the trouble can be found in the meager records available to us. One of Dr. True's reports, probably written late in 1853, dilates on the discipline problem in its first major paragraph. The "marked example" which he thought might be necessary came to pass in the next spring

term, which the executive committee (doing what by the by-laws the principal could not do) "for the welfare of the school were under the disagreeable necessity of expelling two scholars . . . for bad conduct." The next November Dr. True noted great improvement as a result of this action, but spoke with concern about the ruinous habits of a few young men.

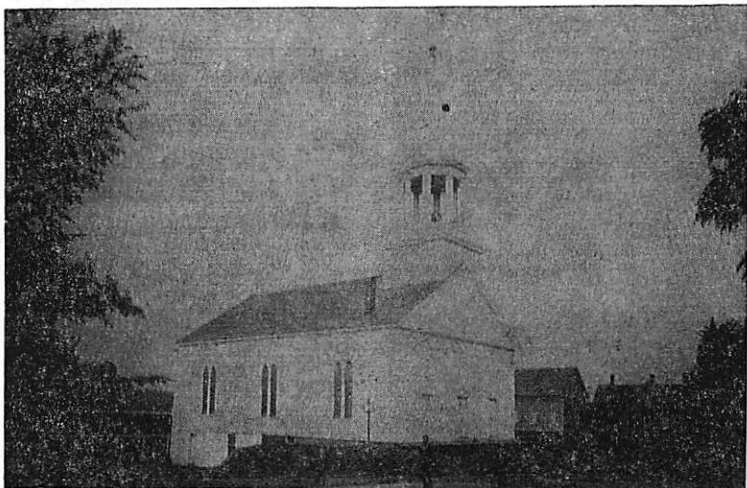
The catalogue of 1854, after extolling as usual the attractions of Bethel, had this to say: "We wish it, however, to be distinctly understood that this school is not designed as a House of Reformation." Children who will not comply with school regulations or parental authority should be sent "to a Family, or Reform School." The next year's catalogue contained the same remark about the House of Reformation but omitted the suggestion about the reform school, saying merely that such children should not be sent to Gould's.

We have no further evidence until 1857, when the principal spoke favorably of the general deportment of the school, but complained of a reckless spirit displayed by some of the smaller boys, "especially such as belong to our village," and suggested that the executive committee instruct the preceptor to deliver up to the committee "all knives found in cutting seats."

In late 1858 the board, containing several recently elected trustees, required the principal to catalogue the books and other teaching materials and to report annually on those added and those lost or destroyed. Nearly a year later the board cancelled the existing contract with True and called for a new one which would hold off payment of his \$100 (heretofore paid in quarterly installments) until the completion of all four terms. Before each annual meeting the superintendent of grounds and buildings should report the cost of damage and repair occasioned by "the negligence or carelessness of the principal", this amount to be deducted from his salary. In spite of this slap in the face Dr. True continued as principal.

Some of all this certainly had leaked out. In the "Bethel Courier" for May 18, 1860, was a long article about Dr. True signed DELTA (a name which had been attached from time to time to other articles on other subjects). While allowing that the principal was "not universally popular as a teacher" and that "all people do not speak well of him" the writer said one can't please everybody, especially if one discharges his duty faithfully. True has been the successful head of Gould's for twelve years, and his success "speaks far

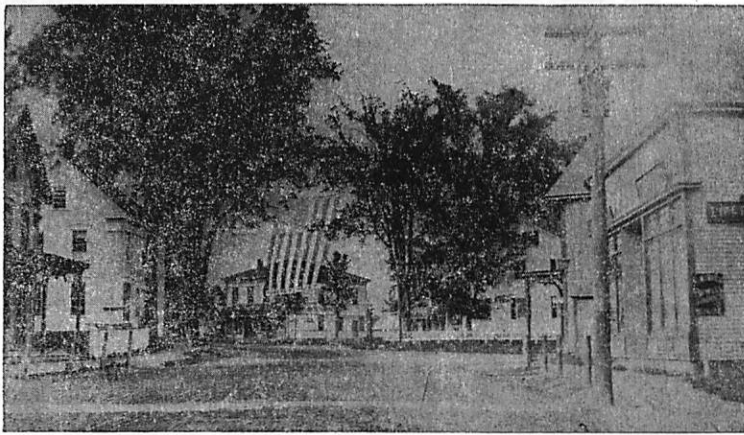
Continued on Page Twenty-One



THE WEST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in the years sometime before 1904. This was before the addition of Garland Chapel (note the horsesheds on the left). The build-

ing on the right was moved to Elm Street in the '20's, before the construction of the present Headmaster's Home on the Gould campus, and has since been razed.





THE SUMMER OF '96 — A slogan attached to the flag advocates McKinley and Hobart.

1896

**BETHEL BOASTS:** 500 voters; Cider Mill, Corn Shop; Five Hotels; 1 Spool Mill; One Dentist; A Brass Band; A Tennis Club; Two Cobblers; Three Parrots; Savings Bank; Trotting Park; Five Churches; A Bicycle Club; A Taxidermist; Two Stage Lines; "Ladies Club"; Five physicians; A New Fire Bell; A Baseball Nine; Six Blacksmiths; Three Sawmills; Good Fruit Store; One law student; 2250 inhabitants; Two meat shops; Two drug stores; Many Large elms: "Honest Corner"; Five Sign painters; Two barber shops; Four public halls; Two undertakers; Veterinary dentist; Gould's Academy; Two jewelry stores; Three fish peddlers; Two hose companies; Four bicycle dealers; Three livery stables; Two public fountains; Three dramatic clubs; Four stamp collectors; About twenty widows; Seventy-nine pretty girls; Forty-seven "girl bachelors"; Dogs worth about a dime each; a Town Library; A telegraph operator who sings, "They're after me".

**BETHEL WANTS:** Electric lights; A shoe factory; More side-walks; Summer boarders; A stone library building; Caterpillar exterminator; A railroad to Rumford Falls; Endowment for library building.  
(from the Bethel News, June 10, 1896)

## TOWN OF BETHEL

## MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS — 1974

Selectmen and Assessors: Leland R. Brown, chairman; John T. Grover; Arlan R. Jodrey, Bradley R. Barker, Samuel H. Timberlake.

Town Manager (Duties of Treasurer, Tax Collector, Road Commissioner, Overseer of Poor, Building Inspector, and Registrar of Voters): Elwyn N. Dickey.

Secretary and Town Clerk, Judith A. Young; Office Assistant, Shirley F. Olson; Fire Chief, Harold Carver; Fire Wards and Inspectors, Robert L. Davis, Harold Carver; Health Officer, Dr. John Young; Electrical Inspector, David R. Myers; Sealer of Weights and Measures, Henry T. Robertson; Sewer Department Operator and Plumbing Inspector, Vincent Dooen; Director of Civil Defense and Public Safety, John S. Greenleaf.

Police Officers, Robert G. Stearns, Chief, Frank S. Murphy, R. Glenn Murphy, William Lynch, John T. Grover, Phillip Coolidge, John Carlson; Constables, Stephen Chandler, Asher Runnels, Albert Sumner Jr., Rodney Hanscom, Jr.

Budget Committee, Mary Keniston, Herbert Lyon, Dwight Merrill, Frances Clark, Robert Hastings, Ernest Blake, Albert Buck, Thomas Carter, Ronald Kendall, chairman, Lincoln Fiske, Burton Newton, Theodore Chadbourne.

Planning Board: Richard Harding, chairman; Benjamin Warner, Jr., John Anderson, G. H. Shirley Chase, Carroll Valentine, Dana Douglass, Jr., alternate, John Gray, alternate.

Maine School Administrative District #44: Superintendent, Basil Kinney; Members of the Board of Directors, M. S. A. D. #44, John K. Brown, John Anderson, Betty Ann Hastings, Patricia Hudson, Margaret J. Tibbetts, Clarence Remington.

1974

**BETHEL BOASTS:** population 2,220; 4 motels; a National Historic Landmark; annual budget of 1/2 million dollars; a pizza parlor; 1,739 voters; 1 dentist, 1 funeral director; a uniformed dog officer; a 9 hole golf course; 4 airplanes; 2,000 motor vehicle registrations; a waste treatment plant; a new Rotary Club; 1 lawyer; a modern fire station; avid tennis players; 3 fine inns; a Volunteer Ambulance Corps; 275 licensed dogs; 6 private swimming pools; fluoridated water; championship teams; a National Merit semi-finalist; many summer residents; N. T. L.; active Senior Citizens; 5 public meeting rooms; many 10-speed bikes; a Head Start program; 3 tennis courts; an abundance of wood burning stoves, recently installed; 4 real estate agents; Songo Pond Association; a store (Brown's) that still sells penny candy.

**BETHEL WANTS:** an additional doctor; a swimming facility; a solution to the dump problem; a town baseball field; cable television; an organic food co-op.

## BETHEL: ATHENS OF OXFORD COUNTY

Excerpt from speech given at Bethel Centennial, 1874, by Jacob Brown of Illinois:

Bethel! Dear old town! There is no town in the State which possesses so many and so fascinating attractions to the lover of nature in her beauty, grandeur, and sublimity. Favored above all other towns in the State of Maine in the profuse distribution of nature's largesse, she has truly husbanded her resources. Her soil is tough and so are her people. Her soil has the true grit, and so has her people. The town was settled by a proud and heroic race of men. The tough soil and rigorous climate have given well-knit muscle, strong arms, and sturdy courage, and fertile brains to her people. Bethel Hill, the center of the town, has been and will continue to be the center of learning and literature, the very Athens of Oxford County. Bethel Hill, picturesque beyond comparison, clings to the bold mountain sides in the background, in shadow and sunshine, like the frightened babe to the mother's breast.

## Did You Know:

That in 1790, Bethel had 324 inhabitants?

## DR. TRUE AND GOULD ACADEMY

Continued from Page Twenty

more forcibly than language." Others might be "better in physical discipline," but probably wouldn't retain their hold on the school more firmly. When he gets through as principal it will be hard for the trustees to find his equal for exerting intellectual and moral influence, and maybe True's successor will feel the school "rock and reel under him by adverse events and even pitch him out of it." The writer wound up by remarking that True had started in Bethel twenty-five years earlier, and proposing a "quarter-century celebration."

But the minds of the trustees were set in another direction. A special meeting was called for June 1, 1861, "to take into consideration the state of the school," and "to see what changes if any ought to be made in the management and mode of instruction." When the board met, they went right to the point, authorized the secretary to notify "the present principal" that his contract is terminated as of the end of the current summer term, and instructed the Executive Committee to see about obtaining a teacher or teachers for the fall term. The secretary's letter to Dr. True, notifying him of this action without a word of thanks or appreciation for thirteen years of service to Gould's, was dated the same day. The next issue of the "Courier" carried Dr. True's resignation as editor.

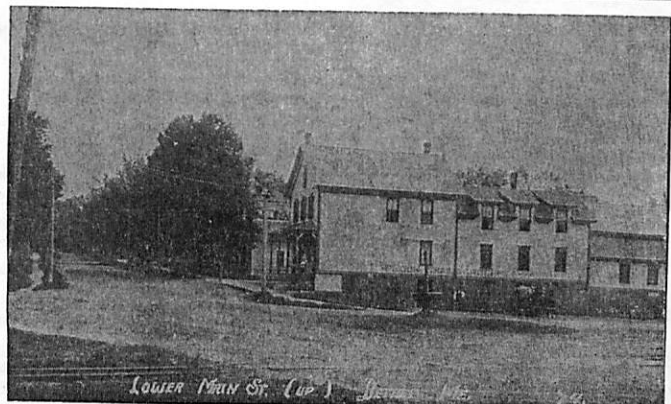
## POLITICS—OLD STYLE

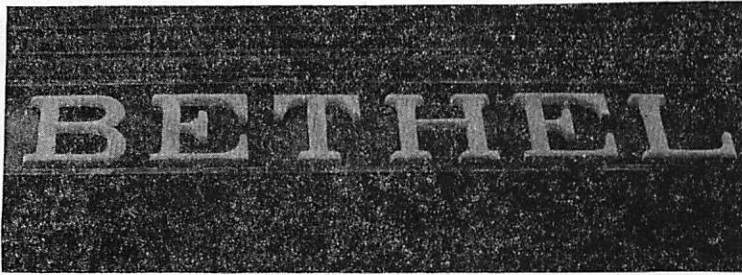
Phineas Frost (1794-1869) was one of the most influential and successful public figures in early Bethel. He was active in town affairs, and served in the state legislature. The following selection from the "History of Bethel" illustrates some of his methods.

"... he had a greater personal following than any other man in town. Every measure that he originated or adopted, he was sure to carry through, and in the many wordy contests between the upper and lower parish, he was ever the leader and champion of the latter. He generally adopted the popular side, advocating the cause of the poor... he was a ready speaker, bold and defiant, rather than persuasive, and pursued his object to the bitter end without fear or asking favor. When the town received its share of the surplus revenue, there was a sharp contest over its dispersal. Mr. Frost advocated dividing per capita among the inhabitants of the town, and he carried it through. He five times represented the town in the Maine Legislature, the last time he was not the candidate of any party. It was at a time when parties were badly divided and were being reorganized and the Democrats nominated O'Neil W. Robinson, Esq., a very popular man and regarded as somewhat liberal in his views. The district was composed of Bethel, and the towns and plantations northwardly, and in the lake region, and as soon as the nomination was made and ratified, Mr. Frost on foot and with staff in hand, commenced a pilgrimage through the district, visiting every leading Democrat therein. The result was when the election came, that Mr. Frost was elected in a decided majority."

Our blueberry sauce and cranberry tart,  
And blessed maple honey, too,  
Refresh the taste, rejoice the heart,  
And loss of appetite renew.

(Dea. G. W. Chapman, 1874)





Publication of this special edition has been made possible by financial contributions from the following businesses and friends. The Bethel Historical Society gratefully acknowledges their support.

**TOWNSHIP**

Town of Bethel  
Est. June 10, 1796 Main St., Bethel

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Gould Academy  
Est. 1836 Church St., Bethel

NTL Institute  
Est. 1947 Arlington, Va., and Bethel

**CIVIC ORGANIZATION**

Chamber of Commerce  
Est. 1963 Bethel

**ANTIQUE SHOPS**

Dorothy Fadner  
Est. 1964 Rte. 2, Bethel

Tinker's Dam and Clock Repair  
Est. 1973 Main St., Bethel

**ATTORNEY-AT-LAW**

Michael J. O'Donnell, Esq.  
Est. 1968 Main St., Bethel

**BANKS**

Bethel Savings Bank  
Est. 1872 Main St., Bethel

Casco Bank & Trust Company  
Est. 1933 Main St., Bethel

**BEAUTY SALON**

The Cherie Beauty Salon  
Est. 1958 High St., Bethel

**CAMPING AREAS**

Lone Pine Camping Area  
Est. 1969 Rte. 2, Bethel

Songo Lake Camping Area  
Est. 1965 Rte. 5, Bethel

Twin Oaks Camping Area  
Est. 1966 Rtes. 2 and 26, Bethel

**CONTRACTORS**

Keith Bartlett, Painter  
Est. 1966 Paradise Rd., Bethel

John S. Greenleaf, Electrical Contractor  
Est. 1969 Sunset Rd., Bethel

Peter T. Haines, Builder  
Est. 1967 East Bethel

Harold Rolfe, Builder  
Est. 1954 Park St., Bethel

Lewis M. Sargent, Painter  
Est. 1959 High St., Bethel

D. A. Wilson, Sand and Gravel  
Est. 1954 Rte. 35, Bethel

**FABRIC SHOP**

Woof 'n Weft  
Est. 1972 Church St., Bethel

**FUNERAL HOME**

Greenleaf Funeral Home  
Est. 1920 Vernon St., Bethel

**GENERAL STORES**

Head's Store  
Est. 1915 West Bethel

L & F Country Store  
Est. 1955 West Bethel

**GREENHOUSE**

Groan & McGurn Greenhouse and Supply  
Est. 1974 Rte. 2, Bethel

**GROCERY STORE**

Olson's IGA Store  
Est. 1964 Main St., Bethel

**INNS AND MOTELS**

Bethel Spa Restaurant and Motel  
Est. 1950 Main St., Bethel

New Yorker Motel and Restaurant  
Est. 1962 Rte. 2, Bethel

Norseman Inn  
Est. 1894 Rte. 2, Bethel

Red Rooster Motel  
Est. 1959 Rte. 2, Bethel

Sunday River Inn  
Est. 1964 R. F. D. 2, Bethel

The Barn Motel  
Est. 1966 Rte. 2, Bethel

The Bethel Inn  
Est. 1913 Broad St., Bethel

The Conrads "The Edwards Homestead"  
Est. 1962 Main St., Bethel

The Sudbury Inn  
Est. 1873 Main St., Bethel

**INSURANCE**

Bartlett Insurance Agency  
Est. 1934 Loton Hutchinson, Agent  
Elm St., Bethel

Goodwin's Inc.  
Est. 1865 Norway, Maine

W. J. Wheeler & Co., Inc.  
Est. 1864 South Paris, Maine

**LOGGERS**

Bryce H. Yates  
Est. 1969 Sunday River Rd., Bethel

**MANUFACTURERS**

Birdhouses by John J. Wight  
Est. 1969 Rte. 2, Bethel

Bethel Furniture Stock, Inc.  
Est. 1964 Rte. 2, Bethel

P. H. Chadbourne & Co.  
Est. 1934 Rte. 26, Bethel

L. E. Davis Lumber Co., Inc.  
Est. 1927 Cross St., Bethel

Hanover Dowel Company  
Est. 1929 Cross Street, Bethel

Kendall Dowel Mill, Inc.  
Est. 1959 West Bethel

Newton & Tebbets, Inc.  
Est. 1938 West Bethel

**MINES**

Bumpus Mine for Rock Hounds  
Est. 1970 Albany

**MONUMENTS**

Feeney Memorials  
Est. 1973 Main St., Bethel

**OIL COMPANIES**

Bethel Oil Company, Inc.  
Est. 1961 R. F. D. 2, Bethel

Luce Oil Company  
Est. 1960 Broad St., Bethel

**PHARMACY**

Clukey's Pharmacy, Inc.  
Est. 1861 Main St., Bethel

**POULTRY FARM**

Roberts' Poultry Farm, Inc.  
Est. 1946 R. F. D. 2, Bethel

**PRINTER**

Citizen Printers Inc.  
Est. 1895 Main St., Bethel

**REAL ESTATE**

Robert Crane Associates  
Est. 1970 3 Broad St., Bethel

Early Real Estate  
Est. 1974 Main St., Bethel

**RESTAURANTS**

Charlie's Place  
Est. 1973 Main St., Bethel

Martha's Restaurant  
Est. 1945 Main St., Bethel

The Red Lantern Dairy Bar  
Est. 1964 R. F. D. 2, Bethel

**RETAIL STORES**

Brooks Bros., Inc. Hardware  
Est. 1916 Main St., Bethel

Brown's Variety Store, Inc.  
Est. 1936 Main St., Bethel

Friday Gift Shop  
Est. 1954 Main St., Bethel

Rolle's Apparel Shop  
Est. 1955 Main St., Bethel

Sunri Ski Shop  
Est. 1958 Main St., Bethel

The Gem Shop  
Est. 1960 Rte. 2, Bridge St., Bethel

The Window Box, Gift and Specialty Shop  
Est. 1970 Main and Church St., Bethel

**SERVICE STATIONS**

Charlie's Chevron Station  
Est. 1967 Railroad St., Bethel

Chapin's Shell Station  
Est. 1949 1 Mechanic St., Bethel

Citgo Service Center  
Rte. 2, Bethel

**SERVICES**

Brown's Welding Shop  
Est. 1962 Middle Intervale Rd., Bethel

SAGA Food Service  
Serving Bethel Since 1970

GAN Sanitation & Trucking  
Est. 1973 Bethel

Shaklee Distributor  
Organic food supplements, cleaners, skin care  
Est. 1973 19 Railroad St., Bethel

Sunday River Tree Service  
Est. 1966 Sunday River, Bethel

M. C. Sweatt, RCA TV Sales and Service  
Est. 1953 Rte. 2, Bethel

**SKIWAYS**

Mount Abram Ski Slopes, Inc.  
Est. 1960 Locke Mills, Maine

Sunday River Skiway Corp.  
Est. 1958 Newry, Maine



### THE GROVER HILL MEMORIES OF GWEN STEARNS

At the age of seven in 1863, my father Nathan A. Stearns, moved to Grover Hill, a place so named because the early settlers who inhabited it, bore the name of Grover. However, a man named Eames had been the former occupant of the farm which was a slightly spot, with towering elms, a small mountain called Sparrowhawk in the background, and before it, a panoramic view of distant mountains.

Father's schoolmates and companions were the Whitmans, a large family of six stalwart sons, and three daughters. The son, Albert, remained on the family farm and was the father of Clyde and Evander Whitman. The daughters married and left the state except May whose husband was Levi Bartlett, a Civil War veteran and they lived on a farm below her parents home. They were the parents of three daughters and a son who died quite young.

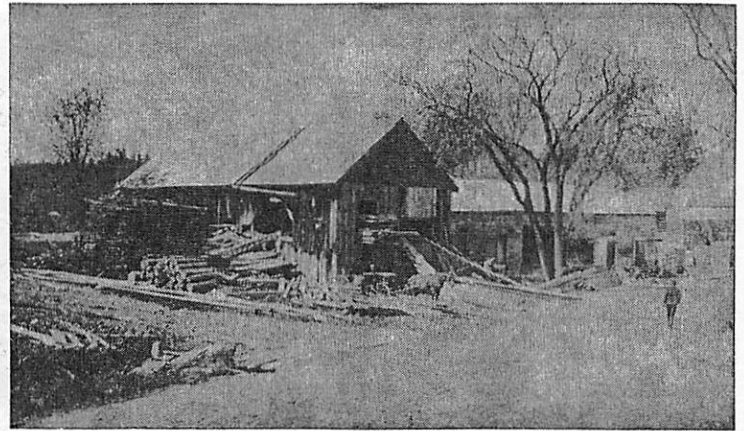
At the top of the long steep so-called Whitman Hill dwelt the Bennetts. Mr. and Mrs. Freeland Bennett, "Aunt" Abiah the aged grandmother and four daughters, one of whom died in early life, the older ones married and moved away and the younger, Marion married Maurice Tyler of Mason and set up housekeeping with her parents.

On a cross road but in sight of the main road there lived a family named Whitney. Martin, the son, was a sort of itinerant preacher, who made many calls on his sinful neighbors. Martin would have been "in" now for he had a long untrimmed back beard which, however did not conceal a large goiter on his throat. As a child when Martin said a fervent prayer, that goiter bobbed up and down in a manner fascinating to my small brother and me.

On another side hill farm lived Mr. and Mrs. John B. Peaslee and their son, Alfred. Alf, as he was usually called, was the same age as my father. They were boyhood chums and played many games and pranks together.

On another rather remote farm there was a family named Grover, consisting of five sons, one of whom lost a leg in the Civil War. Now and then our mother took us there to call and we were awestruck at the aged grandmother whose head was crowned by a white lace cap. The youngest son who carried on the farm married his cousin Edith Wheeler. It seemed a custom of that time for Grovers to marry Wheelers and vice-versa. They had no children but were foster parents to a youth, the late Fred Wheeler, who was a loyal son to the childhood couple.

At the foot of the same long steep hill were cozily ensconced a brother and sister, Milton and Amelia Grover, not close relatives of the other Grover family. The house was painted white and surrounded by elms. However, a fire destroyed the entire set of buildings. The odor of the burned cattle and horses lingered



for days in the air. After the fire, Milton died and Amelia, an eccentric spinster, went to live with her brother Hannibal in the village. Hannibal was a Dickens-type, Uriah Heep, most likely.

At the left of the Grover farm was a long steep hilly road which led to the Steam Mill hamlet, since given the name of Skillingston, so named for a Mr. "June" Skillings, owner of the mill.

One place has been called Cobblestone Farm since the turn of the century, when Alphonse Van Den Kerckhoven bought and had dreams of making a show place of it with a Dutch windmill and long henhouses. In our early childhood days, it was occupied by a Lyon family. Both Mr. and Mrs. Abiah Lyon died in early middle years. They had a handsome daughter and five sons, the youngest of whom were the late Edward and Harry Lyon, who are remembered so vividly by Bethel residents. The Lyons were fun-loving witty people, never afraid of telling jokes on themselves. For a time an aged and very prim Aunt Ann shared their home. One day two of the boys came upon Aunt Ann surreptitiously blowing smoke from her clay pipe up the fireplace chimney.

Farther along and on another cross road were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mayberry. The latter had been a sailor in his youth and his sharp blue eyes twinkled above a very white beard as he jovially recounted some of his exciting adventures at sea. Mrs. Mayberry was a motherly old soul whom we sometimes called "Grammy." I can see her now, sitting with a jack-knife, whittling off slivers of tobacco into a wide calico apron. Then with a deft scoop she'd fill her old blackened pipe and sit puffing contentedly. I can almost smell in memory the dry acrid tobacco-laden atmosphere of that house. The Mayberrys had a daughter who ran a nearby-farm owned by her uncle Reuben Paine. Reuben, a be-whiskered old patriarch had many cats which were said to have eaten from his plate. Rachel, the niece, was a strong and muscular woman who wore men's pants held up by "galluses" but covered discreetly by a long skirt whenever strangers were around. Upon seeing people approaching Mrs. Mayberry would shout, "Drop your blinds, Rachel!" Only she pronounced "Rache" as if it were "Wretch".

For recreation in my father's boyhood, they had spelling bees, lyceums where pieces were spoken, and sometimes there was a singing teacher. The late Fred Grover's grandfather was a singing teacher of those early days. There was also another form of amusement when rustic swains took their girl friends to "swing" parties. A swing was fastened from huge trees and early summer evenings were pleasantly passed in such an innocent manner. They also had so-called "huskings" when a red ear of corn brought a forfeit.

In contrast to the fun parties, there were sad occasions like the funeral of one David Bancroft who had been killed in a woods accident. At the time there was a minister in Bethel familiarly called Brother Garland. Garland Chapel was named for this eccentric parson. Brother Garland was asked to make a eulogy at David's service held in a neighbor's farmhouse. According to my father, Brother Garland became almost hysterically emotional and in a high-pitched squeaky voice he proclaimed, "Rum killed him! Rum killed him!" This statement was widely disputed as the de-

**THE SAWMILL** of Isaac S. Morrill at the foot of Mill Hill, near the turn of the century. Mr. Morrill purchased the property from E. S. Kilborn about 1894 and operated it for 15 years or more.

parted David had never been known to imbibe freely on hard cider, the usual drink.

In addition to usual farm crops, hops were grown on many of the Grover Hill farms. What in later years became our garage was in my childhood called the Hop House.

In those far-away days, hoboes or tramps were frequent but always unwelcome callers. There were also tin peddlars, some with horse-drawn vehicles, exchanging ten dippers for a bag of old rags. In addition there were pack peddlars. One such went by the name of John Bolens. John was meekly followed by a careworn wife who always tugged the heavier burden. His evil mustochioed face awakened thoughts in our childish minds as to how brutally he beat his patient wife when out of sight and hearing.

Another bizarre figure often meandered along our road. Old, bent and emaciated with a disorganized mind, he had never harmed a living thing. We often saw him trying to protect the ants in an ant hill. Poor old creature! He came to a sad end, freezing to death in a bog a long way from Bethel. Poor old "Crazy Higgins"!

After the Whitneys moved away from our neighborhood, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brown, formerly of Albany, occupied the place. It was a large family of several sons and daughters. Winnie, the youngest daughter, used to babysit for Karl and me, when Mother had to go to town. We adored Winnie, who later married Sewell Lyon and died quite young. She received ten cents for an afternoon's supervision of two active mischievous youngsters. Levi Brown, the baby of the Brown family was the father of Walter, Vernon, Hugh and Merton. Levi, several years older than we, sometimes helped with the barn chores if our father was called away, such as the time he was a juror for a court session.

On a warm spring-like May day, we started school at the little school house beneath the shadow of Sparrowhawk Mt. Mother had been a teacher in Norway and Bethel so she taught me at home until Little Brother was old enough to enter school. Our first teacher was pretty, vivacious Grace Bartlett, later the wife of the late Fritz Tyler and the mother of Esther Tyler.

Late in the '90's a quaint old couple Peter and Hattie Wheeler who had spent nearly a lifetime high on the side of Sparrowhawk Mt., decided to move to a farm along the main road. Peter, an irascible Mongoloid type, with a wispy beard, was often angry when he hissed out menacing words and stamped his feet. Having no children, they found a small boy in an orphanage. His name was Harvey and he went by the name of Harvey Peter. We can recall how one spring day as Miss H., our teacher at the time was walking sedately toward the schoolhouse Harvey Peter rushed to meet her shouting loudly, "Teacher, Teacher, I've got my winter drawers off. Have you got yours on?" Miss H. was a prim and precise spinster but an excellent teacher. We children laughed uproariously and an embarrassed teacher stayed out of sight for some time behind the schoolhouse door.

### SMALL ENGINES

Ernest Angevine,  
Dealer in McCulloch and Bombardier  
Est. 1956 Main St., Bethel

### STABLES

Wild River Acres,  
Riding Lessons and Trail Rides  
Est. 1970 Gilead

### SURVEYOR

Dana Douglass  
Est. 1961 Rtes. 2 and 26, Bethel

### FRIENDS OF THE SOCIETY

Anonymous  
Lt. Gen'l (Ret'd) and Mrs. James D. Alger  
Bryant Pond

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Carlson	Bethel
Miss Dick Hastings	Bethel
Mr. Edward Hastings	Bethel
Mrs. Emily Saunders	Bethel
Mr. and Mrs. R. Gregg Snyder	Bethel
Dr. and Mrs. John W. Trinward	Bethel
Dr. and Mrs. David A. Willard,	Princeton N. J.
Rep. and Mrs. J. Jay Willard	Bethel

## RESTORATION OF MASON HOUSE

Continued from Page One

tions and bequests with materials relating to Dr. Mason or his time. On the second floor of the ell is a modern apartment for the curator. The adjoining barn houses the Bethel Historical Society's office, meeting room, kitchen and storage space. With these facilities, materials relating to Bethel's past seem certain to be preserved and displayed.

The outstanding feature of the house, however, remains the murals in the upper and lower halls. They were painted on plaster by the famed Rufus Porter or one of his associates between 1835 and 1840 after the house was constructed in 1813. Having withstood the ravages of time remarkably well, they still clearly depict distant seascapes and country scenes through lush foliage. Because of these, in addition to Dr. Mason's background as a United States Congressman and public official, the house is listed in the National Register of Historical Places in the State of Maine.

## EVA M. BEAN — A TRIBUTE

Continued from Page One

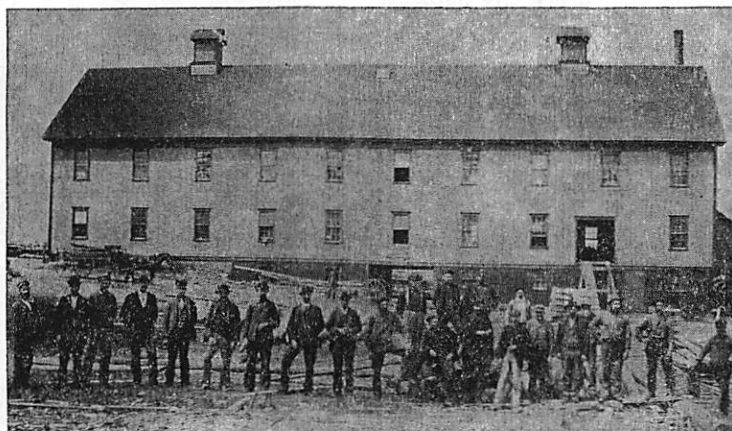
happenings are also part of the larger historical picture as Eva keenly appreciated. One of the last subjects on which she was working was the story of "Nigger Tom", the pre-Civil War fugitive slave who lived beyond Gilead in the Wild River and Hastings area; this poor unhappy fugitive brought to the wilderness of Oxford County a living link with an impending nation wide conflict and Eva dearly wanted to know how the local people reacted.

Most of us do not think of Eva only in terms of her work, however. She was one of those friends whom we miss more each day. She had a splendid and admirable character with a warm, generous, and open spirit. She was positive and strong minded, but she was always kind and always just. Her sense of humor was constant and her wit was sharp and never malicious. Often I catch myself thinking what fun it would be to talk something over with Eva, how she would have laughed to hear that the Bowdoin College Librarian had urged me to read her book, or how she would cut through to the essentials in discussing a local historical tangle. How proud she would be to see the Historical Society in the Moses Mason House! How we wish she were here!

Terribly crippled by arthritis Eva never complained of her continuous pain or permitted her courage to flag. It was extra-ordinarily difficult for her to drag herself up Bethel's hills or over the uneven ground of our old cemeteries. Cold and rainy days were almost unbearable, but in her spirit Eva had conquered pain and fatigue. She was a tall strong featured woman with beautiful dark red hair and a wide lovely smile. She loved to go for rides around the rural back roads although getting in and out of an automobile could be torture for her. A fine cook, she fed her friends to the point at which health was endangered by gluttony. It was not unusual to pay a casual visit to Eva and come home with four boxes of fudge and a dozen cookies.

One of Eva's most characteristic attributes was her loyalty. Nothing could shake her fierce and deep allegiance to the institutions of this area. For Eva Gould Academy was always the finest school in the world and Bethel, particularly East Bethel, the finest place in the world to live. Working on the History of Gould Academy was a labor of both pride and love to her, and it is a source of pleasure that her research will be incorporated in the work on Gould History presently in progress by Dr. Francis Parkman. She was equally loyal to her friends and neighbors. I remember once standing with Eva to admire the beautiful view up the river over Robert Hastings' intervale lands; for Eva the view was even more beautiful because the Hastings' family were her friends.

She knew the limitations of the early settlers because she had dug deeply in to the materials of their lives. She knew that many were poor, some were ignorant, some were shiftless. But she respected and loved them all because she recognized that each and every one had made his contribution to Bethel's history. We are fortunate that she gave so generously of herself in helping to develop in the Historical Society her own love for our local past.



## CHANGES IN FORTY-THREE YEARS

Since 1931 there have been many changes in Bethel that have, in one way or another, concerned all of its citizens.

A gradual consolidation of the elementary schools, eliminating many of the smaller outlying schools was culminated with the formation in 1965 of School Administrative District No. 44. In years previous to this a two room addition was constructed at the Bethel Primary School (now Ethel Bisbee School) in 1947, and the Crescent Park School was built for the grammar grades, opening in 1951. The Bethel Grammar School on High Street was closed with the opening of Crescent Park. Rural schools in South, Northwest, West and East Bethel were phased out when it was thought it would be more feasible to transport students involved. The overwhelming factor in the decision to form a school district with neighboring towns were circumstances that necessitated constructing a facility to provide secondary instruction in the public school system.

In local government, Bethel voters, adopted the town manager form of government at a special meeting in December of 1953. O. T. Rozelle of Bridgewater was Bethel's first town manager, assuming the post in early 1954. Harold Bean of Clinton, Michael Houlihan of Livermore Falls, and Elwyn Dickey of Monroe have served the town well in this position for the past 20 years. Mr. Dickey has been here since January of 1967. With the adoption of the town manager form of government the board of selectmen was expanded from the traditional three members to a five member panel.

A disastrous fire in March of 1963 that destroyed a three-apartment building and a restaurant owned by Harvey Sweetser, the former Elmer Allen property, on Main Street, led to a dramatic change in the architectural skyline in that part of the village. A new IGA Store was built on that lot in 1964, and a new Casco Bank building was constructed on the former IGA lot in 1968. Also razed to make room for the Bank were three other buildings, the former First National Store, a barber shop, and the so-called "Lower Corporation Building".

The White Mountain National Forest located its Evans Notch District Office in Bethel in 1964.

The Whitney house on Railroad Street was torn down when a new A. & P. Supermarket was built in 1967-68.

In the early 1970's the State finally built a new bridge over Alder River on Route 26 which for several years was thought hazardous by many. Also in the early '60's, the outmoded "over-head bridge" at the foot of Church Street was replaced by a grandiose traffic circle/overpass combination. In the late-'60's the "steel bridge" over the Androscoggin to Mayville was replaced, as modern traffic was proving too much for the structure completed in 1928.

Most recently the stretch of Route 2 between Thurston and the Sunday River Road has been relocated, eliminating a dangerous, twisting and narrow stretch of highway.

The building on Main Street last utilized as the Home for the Mundt-Allen Post, American Legion, was razed in 1970. The Legion erected a new building on Vernon Street. The Main Street structure pre-dated 1896 and

**BETHEL CHAIR FACTORY** and crew. Established in 1886, the Chair Factory merged into the Bethel Manufacturing Company in 1890. When it burned in the fall of 1944 it was the dowel mill of H. F. Thurston & Son.

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The following have contributed material for this issue of the "Citizen":

John Brown, Catherine Newell, Stanley Howe, Clare Smith, Rosalind Chapman, Edith Labbie, Virginia Kelly, Louise Chapman, Seymour Butters, Stephen Seames, Margaret Tibbets, Pearl Ashby Tibbets, Gwendolyn Stearns, Richmond Roderick, Edmond Vachon, Rebecca Bailey, Madeleine Gibbs, Alan Chapman, David Thompson, Cynthia Mason, Almee Walker, Barbara Merrill, Albert Killings, Doris Lord, Elsie Davis, Virginia Keniston, Steve Wight, Ralph Hall, Edward Hastings, James Hudson, Richard Fraser, J. Mac Davis, Stephen M. Anderson, John Willard, Francis Parkman, Betty Willard.

## Did You Know:

That the corn factory on September 25, 1891 was canning 64 cans per minute?

That some of the first settlers arrived in Bethel on snowshoes hauling handsleds?

That a single gunshot was the signal for the early inhabitants of Bethel to gather in the garrison?

That the largest elm tree in Oxford County was on the property of Leslie Noyes in East Bethel in 1964?

That N. T. True advocated a steamship to travel the Androscoggin between Bethel and Rumford?

That the last survivor of the Indian Raid of 1781 was Isaac Abbott who died in 1861 at the age of 99?

That a certain well-known Broad St. resident sleeps on a pillow marked Lovejoy Hotel, and uses a bathtub from the old Bethel House?

## Social Note

In 1874 no sensible young man residing here in Bethel ever thinks of going out of town in search of a wife, while a great many sensible men who visit the town, whether for that purpose or not, rarely leave it without taking with them one of its daughters.

had been used as a store location until acquisition by the Legion in the years following World War II.

Progress also overtook the building on upper Main Street last used as a laundromat. In 1931 it was the hardware store of J. P. Butts, and before then a hardware store had been there pre-dating the turn of the century. It was razed in the winter of 1972-73 to make way for the new quarters of the Bethel Savings Bank, now nearing completion.

Over the last 43 years the Gould Academy campus has undergone many changes. Starting with Hanscom Hall in 1933, new facilities included a new Holden Hall and athletic field in the late '30's, the field house in the early '40's, the Walters Infirmary in the mid-'50's, Bingham Hall and a refurbished girls' gymnasium in the early '60's, and Davidson Hall, a dormitory completed a few years ago.

This list of changes is by no means complete and reflects only the casual recollections of one person, writing without reference to history, or any reliable source.